

# Probe committee findings Report on raping in DU hall fabricated

By DU Correspondent

No incident of raping took place at the Zahurul Huq Hall of Dhaka University on April 30, according to the DU probe committee formed to investigate the matter.

The committee, set up by the DU Syndicate, in its 40-page report said the contents of the news stories regarding the incident, published in two vernacular dailies were distorted and fabricated.

The committee placed its report for consideration before an emergency meeting of the Syndicate on Sunday (June 12).

According to the report, a former student of Dhaka University, along with a student of the Eden Girls College stayed in a room of the Zahurul Huq Hall in the afternoon of April 30.

In the news item it was reported that a female student, seeking admission in to a preliminary course, was taken to the Zahurul Huq Hall where she was allegedly raped by a group of youths.

Besides, the incident took place on April 30 and not on May 2 as reported in the press.

The internal feud of a student organisation was the cause of distortion of the newspaper report.

The committee spoke of the need for taking necessary steps for distribution of seats in the residential halls according to merit, stopping illegal entry and presence of the outsiders in the residential halls.

Besides, the committee suggested that the university authorities keep strict vigil on implementing the existing rules regarding the entry of the female students in to the residential halls of the male students.



Princess Anne, daughter of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, rides in a carriage with her husband Cmdr Tim Laurence as they leave St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle Monday after she was installed as a Lady of the Garter.

# Saifur on hartals

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nance Minister said though apparently it was called by teachers, actually it was a hartal backed by political parties.

He said the Opposition supported the hartal call when a high powered investment delegation from Japan was in the country to explore Bangladesh's tremendous investment prospects.

Saifur said, tax policy and reforms were the important vehicles for redressing social conflicts and maintaining harmony.

The Finance Minister said tax policies should be supportive and promotive to the development process.

Underlining the importance of the symposium, the Finance Minister said that the tax policies and reforms must be in consistency with the promotion of national growth and development efforts of each country.

Referring to the policy liberalisation in the light of market economy, the Finance Minister said tax policy and reforms should be harmonised with the trade, export and production activities.

The Finance Minister said that the tax policy and reforms should be aimed at removing social injustices conflicts and inequalities through balanced development as well as reduction of poverty.

Referring to the measures taken so far by the government for reforming the income tax policies, Value Added Tax (VAT) and areas of the economy, the Finance Minister said that the society must be ready to accept the reforms.

Dwelling on the social tradition and different conflicting interests on the economic measures and tax reforms, the Finance Minister said the government was not only facing criticism from the opposition political parties, but also from within the ruling party.

Refuting the criticism against the proposed budget for 1994-95 fiscal that it was a richman's budget, the finance Minister said such criticisms were "uninformed, uneducated and politically motivated."

Referring to the proposal of reducing the rate of tariff and duties on general consumer items, he said such reduction of tariff and duties would directly benefit the common people.

# HC orders editor of Janakantha to surrender

A High Court Division bench yesterday summarily rejected the bail petition of editor of the 'Dainik Janakantha' Md Atique Ullah Khan Masud, reports BSS.

The bench comprising Justice D M Ansaruddin Ahmed and Justice Nurul Islam directed accused Khan Masud to surrender before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka, within 48 hours.

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# Opposition

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Asked about the government move for placing a bill seeking reforms of the electoral system, especially by strengthening the Election Commission, the Opposition Chief Whip said, reforms of the electoral process was not an alternative to the provision for holding general elections under a caretaker administration.

"We definitely want a stronger and independent election commission, but it was not the solution to the problem of holding free and fair elections," Nasim said.

He asserted that elections would not be free and fair if those are held under a partisan government. "So the need of the hour is to make provisions for holding national polls under a non-partisan caretaker administration," he added.

Earlier, the leaders of the opposition parties and groups in Parliament had a meeting at the Sangsad Bhaban with Abdus Samad Azad of the Awami League in the chair. The meeting was attended by, among others, Salahuddin Yusuf, Tofael Ahmed and Shudangshu Skekhar Halder of Awami League, Moudud Ahmed, Anwar Hossain and Munirul Haque Chowdhury of Jatiya Party, Sheikh Ansar Ali and Shahjahan Chowdhury of Jamaat and Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury of NDP.

# Draft of Jakarta Declaration formulated

The draft of the Jakarta Declaration, including a plan of action for the advancement of women in the Asia-Pacific region was formulated at a high-level meeting held in Jakarta on Saturday, according to a message received here yesterday, reports UNB.

The meeting was followed by the 2nd Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development (WID) now being held in the Indonesian capital.

The conference was inaugurated by Indonesian President Soeharto at the Presidential Palace on Monday. A three-member Bangladesh delegation, led by State Minister for Children and Women Affairs Begum Sarwar Rahman attended the inaugural ceremony.

# GDP target

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almost stagnant structural transformation of the economy during the 1980s give way to clear shifts in the relative importance of agriculture, industry and services. The industry and the service sectors are to become the chief contributors to growth. This would be in keeping with the structural transformation of the economy in response to accelerated reforms and the switching of private sector resources towards export oriented manufacturing.

The Finance Minister has to pay special attention to the industrial sector because it is going through a stagnation. The growth rate in the industrial sector increases only from 7.1 per cent to 7.4 per cent in FY 1994. Unless the finance minister succeeds in making all these indicators looking good next year, the sluggish investment would mean that the growth rate would stagnate around four per cent with the government's objective of poverty alleviation remaining difficult to achieve.

# Private sector must be fully activated

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sought clarification on various customs and other existing regulations relating to foreign investment.

He called for a reduction of bureaucracy and red-tapism and sought private sector participation in developing the "very much needed" infrastructure facilities in the country.

Political stability and consistency of policies are a must for attracting foreign investment on a continuous basis, he said while appreciating that democracy has taken a firm root in the country.

Making it clear that he has no intention to interfere in the domestic situation in the country, Haruna, however, said: "I understand that there is a general strike going on today, we would like to hope that there is more cautiousness and carefulness" about observing such strikes, while referring to the hartal observed in Dhaka by the striking teachers.

Allegorically comparing a foreign investor with a horse, Haruna added: "you can take a horse where the water is but you cannot force it to drink. The horse will pay attention to whether the first horse is drinking or not."

The delegation leader termed the Karnaphuli Fertilizer (KAFCO) project, with substantial Japanese private investment, as the first Japanese horse in Bangladesh and said future investment largely depends on the success of the project. Marubeni Corporation also has a stake in the KAFCO project.

Haruna said he is aware the KAFCO project has been receiving cooperation from the Prime Minister and other ministers concerned.

Noting the close relationship that exists between Bangladesh and Japan, he said "but the relationship between the private sectors of the two countries has not matched the close ties that exists between the two governments."

"I will inform Japanese businessmen about the private sector in Bangladesh to increase their interests and through talks with the Japanese chamber of commerce and industries, forge closer ties," he added.

Noting that all the 11 Japanese companies located in Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) were operating successfully, he said that if the conditions were better known, then more Japanese investors would show interest in coming to Bangladesh. "There is a great need for Bangladesh to conduct much more promotional efforts in Japan as the businessmen are mainly interested in East Asia and are not well-informed about Bangladesh."

Haruna said that Japanese investments went to Korea and Taiwan in the first phase, then those went to Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia and now the investors are going to China and Vietnam. But he pointed out that Bangladesh does not figure out anywhere on the list of new destinations of Japanese investments, because of the lack of knowledge about the country among the Japanese businessmen.

Describing the visit as 'very effective', he said the mission was able to conduct "efficient and fruitful discussions" during meetings with high-level gov-

# 'WASA can meet 50pc of city requirement'

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder yesterday informed Parliament that the government had taken short and long term programmes to meet the demand of water supply in Dhaka city, reports UNB.

Replying to a supplementary question from Md. Neyamatullah, the minister said at present the WASA can only meet 50 per cent of the total requirement of water in the city.

Replying to another question from K J Hamida Khanam, Salam said the total system loss of water in the capital was 51 per cent of which 22 per cent was technical system loss and remaining 29 per cent incurred due to administrative reason.

At present Dhaka WASA is capable to produce 70 crore litre water a day against the demand of 128.50 crore litre.

Referring to short term projects, the minister said the WASA will install 20 new deep tubewells soon and reinstall 10 others by June 1995. These pumps will produce additional 10 crore litre water a day.

There are 1,34,524 subscribers of Dhaka WASA and revenue collection of the organisation on an average per month is to the tune of Tk. 6.8 crore.

Responding to a call attention notice also from K J Hamida Khanam, the minister said Dhaka WASA will be able to supply additional 50 crore litre of water by 1998 with the completion of 1st phase work

# Gunshots on DU campus

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# Prokrichi

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tive power of the ministries to the respective ministers and formulation of the Rules of Business.

The sufferings of the patients soared as the doctors in different hospitals abstained from their duties.

Different government offices including the Roads and Highways Directorate, the Public Works Department, and the Water Development Board looked deserted.

Leaders of the Prokrichi held a meeting at the Engineers Institution in Dhaka to review the situation.

The meeting discussed submitting a memorandum to the speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad.

Some of the leaders at the meeting suggested continuing the movement after the completion of the three-day work abstention programme.

Prokrichi leaders also discussed the proposal to boycott the bureaucrats socially.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Prokrichi have congratulated their members for successfully observing the first day of the work abstention programme.

The council meeting of the Prokrichi expressed its solidarity with the striking teachers.

# Tree plantation programme '94 begins today

The Prime Minister will launch a nationwide tree planting programme today turning afforestation into a social campaign to maintain country's ecological balance, reports UNB.

Begum Khaleda Zia will fly today to the northwestern arid Barendra region in Chapainawabganj district where she will inaugurate the National Tree Plantation Programme '94. She will land at Enayetpur of the district and plant a sapling there.

The Prime Minister will also cancel two commemorative stamps and first-day cover on the occasion.

The Prime Minister will distribute saplings among schoolchildren to involve them in the drive which will continue for three months.

To ensure participation of people of all walks, authorities will arrange tree fair at every thana and district headquarters. Begum Zia will inaugurate a tree fair in the capital on June 26.

During the three-month-long programme, authorities will arrange mobile sale of sapling and planting trees by noted personalities.

# BCI worried

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The meeting of the BCI Board however expressed its satisfaction over the measures taken by the government with regard to reduction of duty-on some of the industrial raw materials and capital machinery. But according to the BCI, the budget lacks balance in imposing duties on the industrial raw materials and imported finished products made of same materials. For example, the import duty on locally used synthetic rubber and reclaim rubber (the raw material of bicycle tyre and tube) is 45 per cent whereas the import duty on imported finished products of the bicycle tyre and tube, is also 45 per cent.

The chamber suggested that the gap between the duty on raw materials and finished product be at least 30 per cent to safeguard the local industries. Otherwise, such industries will eventually collapse and join the list of the sick industries.

The BCI criticised the budget saying it has failed to give sufficient incentives to attract foreign investments. Bangladesh should offer similar incentives to the foreign investors as offered by countries like Sri Lanka.

The chamber demanded reduction of the VAT rate and said the process of VAT collection should also be simplified.

# Japanese loan

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city yesterday.

The agreement has been initiated under the Note of Exchange signed between the governments of Bangladesh and Japan on March 29 this year in Tokyo during the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister to Japan.

After the signing of the agreement yesterday, the loan will now be operational. Signing of the loan agreement with OECF completes the financing arrangement for the Jamuna Bridge Project.

Two other co-financiers - World Bank and the Asian Development Bank - had already signed agreements to provide 200 million US dollar each for the project.

Another loan agreement with OECF to provide US dollars 13 million (1405 million yen) to the development of Feni/Bakhrabad Gas Project was also signed yesterday.

The project aims at augmenting gas supply to Chittagong area, including the KAFCO project.

ERD additional secretary Mohammad Shahidul Alam and OECF chief representative in Dhaka Hisao Tanimoto signed the two agreements on behalf of their respective side.

# The Midnight File

## Oscar winner Mancini dead

REVERLY HILLS, Calif., June 14: Henry Mancini, the four-time Oscar winning composer who produced such evergreen songs as "Moon River," "Charade" and "Days of Wine and Roses," died Tuesday, his publicist said. He was 70. Mancini died of complications of liver and pancreatic cancer, said publicist Linda Dozeretz. He was at home and his wife, Ginny, was with him, reports AP.

## Mandela to send aid to Rwanda

TUNIS, June 14: President Nelson Mandela of South Africa expressed hesitation Tuesday about sending armoured vehicles to help the UN in Rwanda, but promised to dispatch humanitarian aid. Mandela, representing his country for the first time at an Organization of African Unity summit, is under some pressure to bring his enormous prestige to bear on the Rwandan conflict, reports AP.

# BCCI funder, 11 others

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dant, Iqbal Ahmed Radwi, not guilty on all charges.

Charges included dissipating shareholder's funds, forging bank records and granting fictitious loans, each of which carried a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment.

Funded in 1972 by Abedi, BCCI grew to be the Third World's largest bank with operations in 69 countries. Its main operations were in Luxembourg and the Cayman Islands, which both have a reputation for weak banking regulation.

International regulators shut down BCCI July 5, 1991 after auditors reported massive fraud and loan losses in a scandal which seriously undermined the international financial system.

US prosecutors allege the bank was actively involved with narcotics dealers and international terrorists as well as money laundering, racketeering and bribery.

Investigators who have probed BCCI's worldwide operations uncovered evidence of how the bank's executives manipulated the world's leading financial institutions, making a mockery of banking regulations and international law.

Under UAE law, nine months detention counts as one year's imprisonment. That means that the six men given three-year terms have already served their sentences.

But it is unclear whether they will be released, because all have declared they are unable to pay the damages.

A court source said the Attorney-General will issue a statement Wednesday to clarify the situation.

There were few revelations about the BCCI scandal during the trial because after initial open hearings, the proceedings were held in camera.

Judge Shihab Abdul Rahman took 10 minutes to read out the verdicts in Arabic as the defendants listened with long faces. The sentences were translated for the English-speaking defendants.

At least three of the defendants, many of them British nationals of Pakistani origin like Naqvi, told reporters later they plan to appeal.

Some said they were devastated because they had expected to be acquitted. They did not elaborate.

Eleven of the defendants were seized at the BCCI headquarters in Abu Dhabi in September 1991 and have been held for nearly three years in the comfort of the Police Officers' Club in Abu Dhabi. The judge repeatedly refused bail for anyone except Radhi.

# Thai FM

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explore the possibility of concluding special trading arrangements between the two countries.

The Thai delegation, during its five-day stay, is scheduled to visit some industrial enterprises, the Export Processing Zone at Savar and members of the leading trade bodies.

The Thai Foreign Minister will also call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and commerce and industries ministers.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman and his Thai counterpart are expected to exchange views on bilateral, regional and international issues.

Sources indicated that the matter of issuing visas to Bangladesh nationals, arrival at Bangkok, which has recently been suspended, may also be taken up for discussion. A consular agreement may be signed between the two countries.

# Half-day hartal

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of deflating of rickshaw tyres.

Tejgaon police picked up two picketers. Police said the arrested people were not teachers.

The teachers brought out several processions and held a number of rallies in different parts of the city.

The Central Liaison Committee of the teachers called the hartal to press home its four-point demand which include implementation of the national pay-scale for private schools and colleges.

The hartal call was supported by the opposition political parties including the Awami, Jatiya Party, Workers' Party, Ganatantrik Party, JSD (Inu), BSD (Mahhub), Gano Forum, Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) and several student organisations.

Meanwhile, the liaison committee of non-government schools and colleges expressed its determination to continue the sit-in.

The central committee was reviewing the outcome of the strike and planning future course of action with the representatives from the districts last night.

The meeting held at K L Jubilee High School in Banglabazar began at around 8 pm.

Earlier, the central liaison committee leader Quamruzzaman told the agitating teachers in front of the Press Club that the committee thought the government would accept the four point charter of demands following the 'successful' hartal.