

Probe body on SN Hall incident starts functioning

BSS, Dhaka
The inquiry commission, formed by the government to investigate the entry of police into Shamsunnahar (SN) Hall of Dhaka University and arrest of female students, began its work yesterday.

The commission requested those who were involved or concerned with the incident or who witnessed it to submit their names and addresses to its temporary office by July 31 for giving evidence.

It asked the people interested to submit written statements on the incident to contact it by the date.

The one-member probe body of Justice M Tafazzul Islam would investigate to find out in which situation police entered the hall and whether the activities of the people concerned with the incident were lawful or not.

The contact address of the commission is: deputy secretary of the primary and mass education department, Room No 307, National Academy for Education Management (NAEM), adjacent to Dhaka College.

The deputy secretary has been given the secretarial responsibility of the commission.

Book bungling again

'Irrelevant, unnecessary' materials for primary students

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

Yet another move is underway to spend Tk 15 crore for buying 'irrelevant' books, this time for primary level students.

According to sources, the Directorate of Primary Education is going to purchase over 600 books for primary school libraries across the country. Sources said the books, which were selected by a committee, are mostly 'irrelevant, out of context and unnecessary'.

The Tk 24 crore project has been funded by the World Bank (WB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and aims to stir creativity and imagination among children.

But most of the books on the new list for the 6-10-year old children include are on poultry raising, shrimp culture, political lyric, love and many irrelevant topics. Some of the books have nothing to do with the concept of the project, the sources said.

The committee earlier finalised a list to procure books worth Tk 9 crore, money for which was to be provided by the ADB, for thana model primary school libraries at Khulna, Rajshahi and Barisal divisions.

Now the authorities floated a tender yesterday to procure the same list of books worth Tk 15 crore for thana model primary schools at Dhaka, Chittagong and

Sylhet divisions.

Many of the listed books have not even been published as yet and authors of these books are activists of the ruling BNP.

As many as four books by one Amirul Islam Kagoji, a reporter of a ruling BNP mouthpiece, were included in the list. Kagoji's 'Shera Monishir Jiboni (Life of the great man)' priced at Tk 550 is yet to be published.

Most of the books were selected not by merit but by affiliation of the authors with the ruling BNP, the sources alleged.

The selection committee selected biography of Kazi Nazrul Islam and Rabindranath Tagore for juvenile by a homeopath doctor, B Hossain alias Badsah Hossain, by setting aside works of many famous writers.

Another committee recently selected as many as 52 books on late president Ziaur Rahman and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for public college libraries. Of the 674 books on the list, many are on Islamic ideology. The selection committee ignored the very thrust of the project on the spirit of the country's liberation struggle and literature.

The education ministry despite press reports on the issue has done nothing to address the gross irregularities, saying that the books were "appropriately selected".



Sri Lankan skipper Sanath Jayasuriya sweeps the ball as his Bangladeshi counterpart, wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud (R) looks on during the first day of the second Test match between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh at Sinhalese Sports Club grounds in Colombo yesterday.

AL supports tomorrow's hartal

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League Presidium in a meeting yesterday demanded immediate resignation of the government for what it said failure to protect the dignity of female students of Dhaka University.

"A government that cannot protect female students has no right to stay in power," said a resolution of the meeting.

The AL leaders blamed the government of Khaleda Zia for the "brutal police attack on the female students" of Shamsunnahar Hall and demanded action against those involved.

Strongly condemning the closure of Dhaka University, they also demanded immediate reopening of the university. They observed that the government suddenly closed

Tanguar Haor not cared for

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Even two years after declaration of the Tanguar Haor in Sunamganj a Ramsar Site, implementation of the proposed Nature Conservation Project to preserve the flora and fauna of the 20,000-acre water body is not in sight.

The haor, the biggest natural sanctuary for birds and sweet water fish in the country, is being plundered for the last two years while the government is also being deprived of huge revenue. There are about 140 species of fish in the haor and a large number of guest birds also come here during winter.

Some influential quarters are now trying to undo the declaration and lease the water body as was done earlier, it was learnt.

After declaration of the haor a Ramsar Site in January, 200, a Ramsar Charter was signed in the same year.

A Norwegian government delegation at a meeting in Dhaka in June last year agreed to finance implementa-

tion of the Nature Conservation Project. But there has been no progress so far in this regard, official sources in Sunamganj said.

After a long tug of war between the environment and the land ministries over ownership of the haor, the authority was finally vested with the environment ministry in February last year.

A nine-member committee headed by the Sunamganj Deputy Commissioner was formed to lease the water body under certain new terms and condition to preserve the flora and fauna and to develop fish resources. The district administration floated tender twice -- on January 15 and on March 7 -- but the process was stalled by an order from the environment ministry, the sources said.

Environment Minister Shahjahan Shiraj visited the Tanguar Haor and later held a meeting at the ministry on May 30 this year. The meeting decided to create 'eco-

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Graft cases Court order on bail petitions of Mohiuddin Alamgir today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka will give order today on the bail petitions of former state minister for planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir in connection with three graft cases.

Judge Ahmed Jamil Mostafa on Saturday passed the order upon three separate criminal appeals submitted by the defence lawyers on behalf of the accused.

The defence lawyers submitted the appeals on June 3, seeking bail from the Sessions Judge's Court, after the rejection order of the chief metropolitan magistrate's (CMM) court, Dhaka.

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Lawyers criticise addl judge appointment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's decision on Saturday to appoint 11 additional judges to the High Court division has triggered strong resentment among senior lawyers who termed the appointments politically motivated.

The lawyers under the banner of the Sanmilitya Ainjibi Shamannaya Parishad (SASP) yesterday urged the chief justice to refrain from administering oath to the additional judges.

The Supreme Court Bar Association has also made a similar demand.

The lawyers further demanded confirmation of three judges who were earlier recommended by the chief justice and said the government cannot appoint any new judge without confirming appointments of these three.

Those who were appointed additional judges on Saturday are Deputy Attorney Generals Abdul Awal, Barrister Tarique-ul-Hakim and Mizanur Rahman; Supreme Court lawyers Mir Hasmat Ali, Mashuk Hossain Ahmed, Sharifuddin Chakladar, Syed AB Mahmudul Haq, Salma Masud Chowdhury and Abdus

Salam Mamun; and BCS judicial cadre officials Joint Secretary of the law ministry (solicitor) ATM Fazlur Rahman and Dhaka District Sessions Judge Siddiqur Rahman Mia.

Meantime, the senior lawyers have alleged that the appointments of the three judges were not confirmed despite recommendation by the chief justice only because they were appointed during the Awami League regime.

In two separate meetings, the SASP and the bar association observed that the government appointed the 11 judges ignoring an earlier assurance that the prime minister would hold a meeting with senior lawyers to resolve the on-going crisis over the appointment confirmation of the three judges.

They said the government would now have to shoulder all responsibilities in case of any untoward incidents.

Talking to The Daily Star, Supreme Court Bar Association President Ozaer Faruk said, "The appointments of the 11 additional judges are politically moti-

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Outcry over DU hall attack on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers, students and different socio-cultural organisations have condemned the Wednesday's attack on students of Shamsunnahar Hall.

The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA) yesterday demanded punitive actions against policemen and others responsible for the last Wednesday's attack on female students at Shamsunnahar Hall.

The FBUTA expressed its deep shock and concern over the barbaric police attack. It demanded withdrawal of cases filed against innocent students of the Dhaka University.

In a joint statement yesterday, 127 teachers of Dhaka University demanded immediate reopening of the varsity.

They noted with deep concern that when the protesting students called off their indefinite strike programme considering the congenial atmosphere of the institution, the DU VC took the unilateral decision of closing down the university sidestepping the syndicate.

The DU teachers protested the authorities' move to spoil the academic life of the students by turning the campus into a safe harbour of

'government terrorists' and by laying a virtual siege to administrative buildings, library, research labs and dormitories with heavy deployment of police and BDR forces.

Former leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) have expressed deep concern and anguish over the attack on DU students and subsequent closure of the varsity for an indefinite period.

They demanded immediate reopening of the varsity, withdrawal of cases filed against the students and removals of the VC and the Proctor of DU.

Meantime, Dhaka city AL, Krishak League, Sramik League, Juba Mohila League, and CPB issued separate press releases rendering their supports to students' call for hartals in Dhaka and across the country today and tomorrow respectively.

A women's organisation called Samabaythi Nari Samaj formed a human chain, staged demonstrations and brought out a rally near National Press Club yesterday protesting police attack on Shamsunnahar Hall students.

Others who issued statements condemning the Wednesday's incident are Gono Forum, ADAB, Jatiya Ainjibi Forum, Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani Parishad.

Our JU Correspondent adds, students and teachers' of Jahangirnagar University (JU) came down heavily on the police excess on female students in the Shamsunnahar Hall on July 23 night and the consequent series of events that led to the indefinite closure of the university.

In a statement, twenty JU teachers expressed solidarity with the agitating students, teachers, officers and employees of DU and asked for a conscious and concerted protest against autocratic viciousness of the

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
July 29		6-43 pm
July 30	5-27 am	

Prayer Timings		
July 29		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-30	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

AL undecided over meeting Musharraf

BSS, Dhaka

Acting President of the Awami League (AL) Abdus Samad Azad said yesterday his party is yet to take any decision on the meeting of AL leaders with Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf who arrives here today on a three-day visit.

Samad Azad, who was foreign minister of Bangladesh, during the last AL's rule and chairperson of the AL standing committee on foreign relations, said that there may have some divides in foreign affairs between countries and there are

also ways to handle them.

Azad said the decision about the meeting with the Pakistan president will be taken soon.

Former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury had issued a statement without consulting him, Azad said.

In a statement on Saturday, Chowdhury criticised the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) that had decided not to call on President Musharraf. "I received a clear instruction from the leader of the opposition, Sheikh Hasina, to

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HC rule baffles NBL

STAR REPORT

The National Bank Limited (NBL) is in a fix over the interpretation of a court verdict, which endorsed a Bangladesh Bank (BB) order, to strip one of its directors from office.

The BB had issued the notice on the NBL Director AKM Abu Taher in 1995 and again in 1998 for a default loan for which he was the guarantor.

Taher went to court challenging the BB order, taking the issue through different stages in the court of law since 1995.

Recently, the Appellate Division of the High Court on July 8 gave the final verdict, on the civil appeal filed by Taher, to vacate his post as the director of NBL.

The court in its verdict said the post "had ultimately been vacated, with the expiry of two months from September 9, 1995 when the notice under Section 17 of the (bank com-

panies) act was received."

Form the time the BB served the notice Taher never relinquished his directorship. In fact, he was re-elected to the board twice in 1999 and 2001 and continues to serve.

Along with Taher, who is also a lawmaker of the Jamaat-e-Islami, two other directors of the NBL also went to court receiving the same notice from the BB.

The court finally gave its verdict on three civil appeals filed by the three NBL directors on July 8, allowing the appeal of two directors and dismissing the other director, AKM Abu Taher.

The verdict means Taher's directorship would be left vacated for one year as per Section 17 of the Bank Companies Act.

The NBL however, is yet to take any decision regarding the fate of the director. Also the central bank's

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