

Doctors get jobs at 'political behest'

NAIMUL HAQ

More than half of 600 doctors, teachers, administrative officers and other staff have been recruited recently at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and Hospital (BSMMUH) violating rules and bypassing university syndicate decisions.

It is widely alleged that the present leadership in Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) in partnership with the Doctors Association of Bangladesh (Dab), a doctor's grouping aligned to the ruling BNP, have played partisan role in employing the said officials and staff.

Allegations have it that many teaching staff, and medical and administrative officers have been recruited without having prior approval of the university syndicate. It is also alleged that many teachers not having required qualifications were appointed.

"We are shocked to learn that such illegal act is being practised in an academic institution where our future medical specialists would be serving the nation," said one senior professor of the university.

According to sources, from July 28 to August 4 this year a total of 344 doctors have been recruited for the academic institution on contract and temporary

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Negative politics making business difficult

Business leaders tell BGMEA seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Business leaders yesterday blamed the political parties for damaging the investment climate and asked them to shift from destructive politics to business-friendly politics for a better economy.

The political parties should change their mindset and pursue politics that facilitate trade and business, they said at a seminar on "Free Trade and Attitudes of Political Parties".

Bangladesh Garment

Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) organised the seminar on the sidelines of the three-day Bangladesh Apparel and Textile Exposition (Batespo) that ends today at the Sonargaon Hotel.

The business leaders said the major political parties are confined to the politics of blame that pushes the country backward. Facilitation of trade and business should figure prominently in political activities, they said.

Most of the discussion in parliament revolves round the faults and

negative sides of the political parties, leaving little time for debate on strategies Bangladesh should adopt to face the challenges of the quota-free era, they observed.

They said it is high time the pattern of politics was changed and no more hartals were called, as they hit business hard.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed and main opposition Awami League leader and former commerce and industries minister Tofail Ahmed,

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Harmison, rain put Tigers on backfoot

SPORTS REPORTER

A 15-minute spell of torrential rain all but spoiled the first day's play of the inaugural Test between Bangladesh and England yesterday.

Only 15 overs could be bowled on the day but that was enough for the tourists to send the hosts on the backfoot. At close, the Tigers had lost two important wickets for just 24 runs.

Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud won the much-desired toss and decided to make first use of the wicket under clear skies at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS).

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President of Sierra Leone arrives, talks today

UNB, Dhaka

Sierra Leone President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah arrived in Dhaka yesterday evening on a three-day official visit.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia greeted President Kabbah at Zia International Airport at 7:45pm.

Ministers, Dean of Diplomatic Corps Shahta Zarab, Sierra Leone Ambassador Alarie Cole, chiefs of three services and senior officials were present at the airport.

President Kabbah calls on President Iajuddin Ahmed and

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2 cops hurt as outlaws hurl bombs at police patrol

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two policemen and as many other people were critically wounded last night in the latest in a series of bomb attacks blamed on outlaws near Rupsha Police Outpost in Khulna city.

The injured policemen are constables Mofiz, 45, and Abdul Aziz, 35, while the other injured are Mohammad Naim, a student of class five at Rupsha Government Primary School and aged 10, and Noor Mohammad, a van driver, whose age could not be confirmed immediately.

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Trade talks Dhaka to remove ban on yarn, Delhi to lift barriers on cement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and India yesterday agreed to revise the bilateral trade deal expiring in December.

The decision was made on the second day of the ongoing joint-secretary level meeting between the two countries.

Delhi however did not agree to dropping a clause in the trade agreement that says road and water transit between the two countries may be allowed on the basis of understanding.

Bangladesh also agreed to lifting the ban on yarn import from India through land ports.

"The ban will be lifted after taking measures to stop malpractice in yarn imports," a commerce ministry official was quoted as saying.

As an immediate step, Delhi has also agreed to lifting different non-tariff barriers on cement exports from Dhaka.

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Onion still sells at Tk 10 above govt fixed rate for a kg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Retailers were selling onion at Tk 28 to 30 a kg yesterday, mocking a government ceiling of its maximum retail price at Tk 18 a kg and threat of facing legal measures for non-compliance.

Grocery retailers in Dhaka's Karwan Bazar Kitchen Market said onion prices were still spiralling, as the wholesale prices are yet to fall.

"I bought onion at Tk 26.50 a kilo at wholesale rate from Shyambazar

even today and naturally I can't sell it less than Tk 28 or 29," said a retail trader at the market yesterday.

But prices might fall in the coming days, he added.

"The monitoring team found the price of homegrown onion as high as Tk 30 and the Indian one Tk 24 a kg in the retail market today (yesterday), as it will take two to three days to enforce the government decision," said Monitoring Senior Executive Officer of Trading

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Economy in torpor, says Kibria

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday accused the ruling coalition of leaving the economy in torpor and blamed it on the government's incompetence and corruption.

"No success has been found in the economic sector, except for the growth of remittance, in the first two years of the BNP-Jamaat rule," SAMS Kibria, former finance minister of the AL government told newsmen.

"Remittance from expatriates has increased because of some steps by the previous Awami League

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