

IRREGULARITIES, NEGLIGENCE IN HAJJ MANAGEMENT

Action taken against three staffs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has taken action against three persons responsible for irregularities and negligence in this year's Hajj management.

The action was taken on the basis of a parliamentary probe body report.

This was revealed at a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Religion yesterday.

Md Mezbah Uddin, an official of the consulate general of

Bangladesh in Jeddah, and Ahsan Kabir, an upper division clerk, have been removed while Mahmudul Hasan, a computer operator, was sacked for their negligence in Hajj management, ministry officials told the meeting.

Papers have also been sent to the establishment ministry for taking action against a former secretary in the religion ministry, they said.

A three-member sub-committee formed to probe the irregularities found at least five

staffs of the concerned ministry and Bangladesh embassy in Saudi Arabia responsible and recommended legal action against them.

The meeting recommended sending three lawmakers to Saudi Arabia to supervise next year's Hajj management.

It also formed a three-member sub-committee to improve the Hajj management.

Committee Chairman Delwar Hossain Saidee presided over the meeting.



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (Desa) Contractors' Association stages a demonstration in front of the Desa chairman's office yesterday.

Desa contractors demand tender rate hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (Desa) Contractors' Association yesterday demanded an increase in the rate of tender schedule for purchase of electrical materials.

The existing rate was fixed by the Desa authorities 10 years back, the contractors said.

They staged a demonstration in front of the Desa chairman's office on Abdul Goni Road at about 12.00 noon and shouted slogans to press home their demand.

"Prices of everything, including electrical goods and daily essentials, have shot up, but the rate of tender schedule has remained the same since 1994," said Sheikh Shahidul Islam, president of the association.

He demanded that the rate of tender schedule for supply of electrical materials be increased in line

with the current market price.

Islam called on the Desa authorities to fix a reasonable rate so that contractors do not face any obstacle to their job.

The association also called for reducing the price of tender schedule papers, publishing the tender invitation notice correctly and easing the bill payment method.

Newsmen tried to meet Desa Chairman Brigadier General AAM A Rob for his comments but he talked to only one journalist from the electronic media.

The chairman said he got a letter containing the demands of the contractors four days ago.

A committee has already been formed to look into the demands and it will submit a report within next 10 days, he said.

Tk 102.38 cr DU budget placed

DU CORRESPONDENT

A Tk 102.38 crore budget of Dhaka University for 2004-05 fiscal was placed at the DU Senate meeting yesterday.

The education sector received an allocation of Tk 17.20 crore (16.79 percent), Tk 3.72 crore higher than in the previous budget. However, much of the funds will be spent on salary, allowance and pension.

Placing the budget, Treasurer Prof. Syed Rashidul Hasan said three new funds, including proctorial emergency funds, have been shown in the new budget and Tk one lakh has been earmarked for

each fund.

This is the highest ever budget in the history of the university, with a deficit of Tk 5.83 crore. The treasurer also placed a Tk 97.18 crore revised budget for 2003-04 fiscal.

In the new budget, Tk 70.32 crore has been allocated for salary, allowance and pension and Tk 14.86 crore for general activities and other sectors.

The two-day annual session of the Senate began yesterday with Vice Chancellor Prof. SMA Faiz in the chair.

Prof. Faiz sought cooperation from all in running the university smoothly.

He also condemned the attack on Prof. Humayun Azad, who was stabbed on February 27, and demanded immediate arrest of and punishment to the attackers.

He said the university is going to organise the convocation in December.

Meanwhile, Progotishil Chhatra Jote (PCJ), a platform of left-leaning student organisations, yesterday laid siege to the VC office demanding 25 percent allocation for the education sector in the national budget, increased allocation in the education-related sector in the DU budget and a separate pay scale for the DU teachers.