

Irregularities in Bapex recruitment

Probe committee fails to submit report timely

PORIMOL PALMA

Massive irregularities have been alleged in recruiting 142 officials and 300 employees in Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (Bapex).

The committee to investigate the irregularities is yet to submit its report to the authorities concerned.

The committee comprising three officials from Petrobangla was scheduled to submit the report on January 6.

MA Rais Siddique, senior general manager of Petrobangla and convenor of the committee, yesterday said as they were engaged in other in-

quiries, the committee could not begin its work in time.

The probe committee was formed following written complaint by the employees of the company to Bapex MD, Petrobangla Chairman and State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources alleging massive corruption and nepotism in recruiting process.

The allegations were made mainly against Bapex MD MA Based, DGM, Incharge Nurul Islam and recruitment committee's member-secretary Shawkat Osman.

According to allegations, a number of candidates who submitted their applications after the expiry of submission date, were appointed.

Md Ashik Hossain and Md Alamgir Kabir, appointed in the posts of Assistant Manager, applied 15 days after the submission date.

Moreover, Ashik attached no academic certificates with his application, while Alamgir had no Master's degree as required in the advertisement.

published in two leading dailies on March 10 last year.

Md Asadullah, appointed in the post of Deputy Manager, and Mozammel Haque and Mahbullah, appointed in the posts of Trainee Dealer, also had not the required qualifications as mentioned in the advertisement.

There were many such irregu-

larities, sources said.

Bapex authority also violated the rules of Wards Quota.

Of the total six thousand applications submitted, postal orders of five thousand applications disappeared mysteriously, said a source, adding that the price of each postal order was Tk 100.

Bapex authorities suspended three employees on November 28 last year saying they were engaged in leaking out secret information of the company.

The suspended employees were Abdul Hai, manager (administration), Sujat Ali, office assistant, and Atiar Rahman, foreman.

While contacted, Shawkat

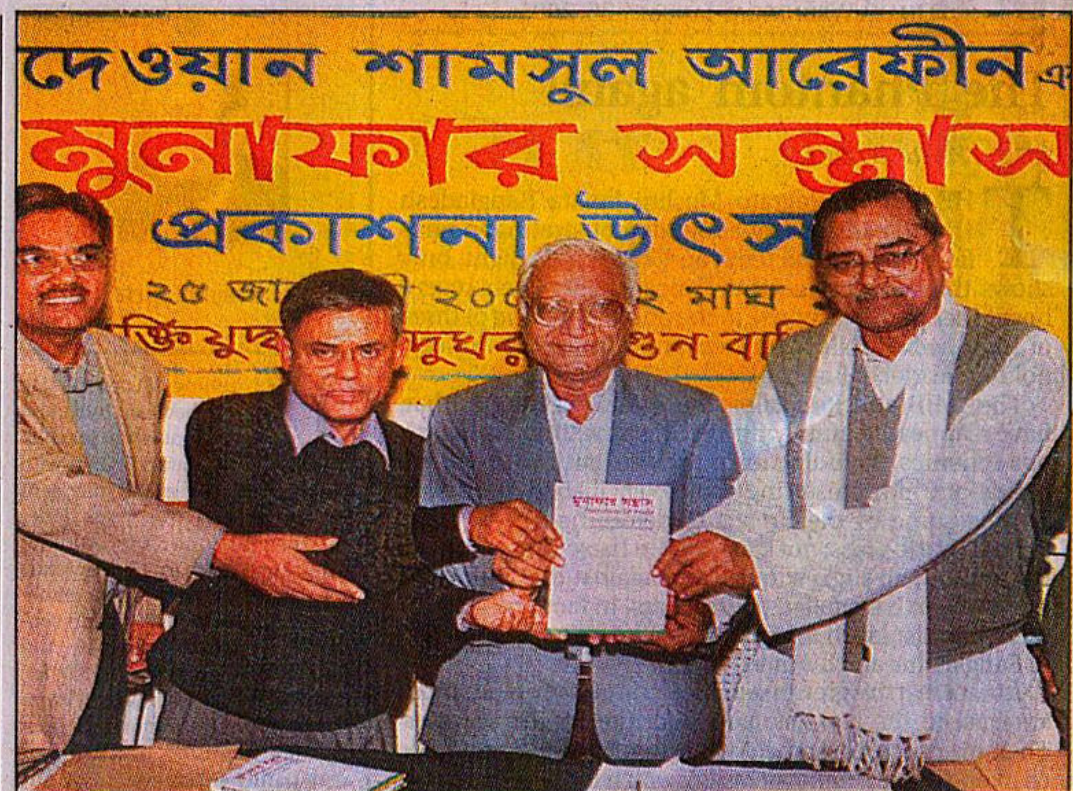
refused to make any comment on the matter.

Based told The Daily Star that he had explained his position to the Petrobangla.

"As the probe committee has already started its job, I don't want to make any comment," said Osmani.

Mosharrar Hossain said he had received a copy of the complaint of Bapex Karmachari Samik League addressed to Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman.

"It is usual for them to bring allegations as they are the part of the labour wing of an opposition political party," he said.



Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury unveils the cover of a book titled 'Munafar Santras' by Dewan Samsul Arefin at the Liberation War Museum auditorium yesterday.



Motijheel, the busiest commercial area looks deserted yesterday as the Eid holiday hangover still persists.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Dhaka elected to UN Human Rights Commission

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has been elected to the Human Rights Commission of United Nations for the term 2006-2008.

Ambassador and Permanent UN Representative of Bangladesh Dr Iftekhar Chowdhury told the media that "this is a global acknowledgement of the contribution that Bangladesh has been making towards the promotion and protection of human rights at home and abroad."

It will also reflect Bangladesh's commitment to social causes and achievements in the social arena, he added.

The Asian Group Members of the United Nations endorsed Bangladesh, China and Japan as members of that influential and prestigious body, against three vacancies for the region last week.

The formal endorsement by the UN membership is likely to take place in April in New York, according to a message received here yesterday.

Friday Theatre School launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Alliance Francaise has launched a theatre school for children with a view to developing their basic acting knowledge and building up their artistic capacity.

Children aged between 6 and 14 can enrol at the Friday Theatre School. Classes will be held every Friday for two hours.

Ashish Khondokar, a graduate of the National School of Drama, India, is the artistic director of the school, says a press release.

The objectives of the course are to provide some primary scientific information about environment, history, geography, nature and everyday life.

Interested persons are requested to contact the Dhaka office of the Alliance Francaise for admission details.

Bangladesh-Australia Centre opens today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The launching ceremony of Bangladesh-Australia Centre for Environmental Research will be held in the city today.

Prof SMA Faiz, vice-chancellor of Dhaka University and Lauren Barker, high commissioner of Australia, to Bangladesh will attend the inaugural function at Hotel Sheraton at 10.00am as chief guest and special guest.

US invasion of Iraq makes world more vulnerable

Speakers tell publication ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US-led invasion of Iraq has made the world more vulnerable than ever before, said the speakers at a publication ceremony yesterday.

They said the US has been trying since 1990 to establish its dominance over small countries with a view to reviving its shaky economy.

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Terrorism of Profit' authored by Dewan Samsul Arefin was held at the auditorium of the Liberation War Museum in the city.

The book is a collection of 45 columns that deals with some vital issues regarding the US economy and some other social issues.

Prof Setajul Islam Chowdhury

said the US is moving with its controversial 'war on terrorism' despite protest across the world.

"The US initiated the war in Iraq only to get financial benefits by capturing its oil resources," he added.

Prof Chowdhury said there is no basic difference between the Republicans and Democrats.

"Would the US policy and the situation in Iraq have changed if John Kerry was voted to power?" Prof Chowdhury questioned.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon said the US economy is driven by profit where respect for people is absent.

"The US society does not consider its citizens as human

being, rather people are treated as consumer there," he added.

Mofidul Haque, a trustee member of the Liberation War Museum, said after the collapse of Soviet Union the US has established its lone supremacy over the small countries across the world.

"The military industry in the US has reached to such a point that it has created insecurity within its own society," he added.

Haque said the book 'Terrorism of Profit' would open up new avenue to the readers regarding the US economy and other social issues.

Ashraf Aldin and Dewan Samsul Arefin, a Bangladeshi expatriate living in the US, also spoke.

Rukki,
Wishing you a fun-filled birthday.
C-162 Prince

POLICE ASSAULT CASE

Bahauddin, Liakat, Nanak get bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A court in Barisal yesterday granted bail to three top leaders of the front organisations of Awami League in a police assault case.

The leaders are Liakat Sikder, president of Bangladesh Chhatra League, Jagangir Kabir Nanak, chairman of Awami Jubo League, and AFM Bahauddin Nasim, chairman of Awami Sechchasebak League.

They surrendered to the Upazila Magistrate's Court of Gournadi and prayed for bail.

More than 50 lawyers moved the bail petition in which they said the case was lodged four days after the incident in a bid to harass them politically.

Magistrate Md Masum Patwari granted bail to the three leaders till January 27

and asked them to appear before the court on the day for hearing of charge framing.

Ahsan Habib, sub-inspector of Gournadi police station, filed the case on April 6, 2004 accusing the three leaders of assaulting policemen who were on duty to ensure security of Opposition Leader and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina while she was returning to Dhaka in a motorcade on April 2, 2004 after visiting Barisal.

In the case, he alleged that the three leaders accompanying the motorcade assaulted the policemen as they tried to disperse a mob near the Gournadi bus stand.

Al-Mamunul Islam, sub-inspector in charge of Sharikal police camp under Gournadi, investigated the case and submitted charge sheet and issued warrants against the accused.

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