

CU cancels certificates

FROM PAGE 1
two reports submitted by Prof Saleh and Prof Hakim at the 336th and 353rd syndicate meetings and found similar proofs of tampering with certificates, Nizami said.

Quoting from Shamsuddin's report, he said tampering of certificates was done in eight categories but the CU authorities did not implement the suggestions placed by the heads of those two committees.

The categories include showing examinees passed in gazette while they actually failed as per tabulation sheet, showing examinees passed although they did not sit subsidiary examinations, showing examinees passed although they did not appear in preliminary exams, and overwriting or scrubbing.

"There was no coordination between the authorities concerned and the office of the controller of examination for taking effective action as per recommendations of the two committees put forward at the 336th and 353rd syndicate meetings," Nizami said.

The meeting was chaired by Vice-Chancellor Prof Badul Alam.

JUDGE FAIZEE'S CASE

Press reports: Two major dailies Prothom Alo and Bhoror Kagoj reported on October 30, 2004 that Faizee, one of the 19 additional judges appointed on August 23, 2004, had tampered with his mark sheet of Muslim Law examinations he sat from Chittagong Law College in 1989. A Chittagong University (CU) enquiry committee formed on April 25, 1996 revealed the fraud.

Bar protest: The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) in an unprecedented move that day asked Justice Faizee to stand down admitting the allegation.

As the bench of Justice Mohammad Ali Asgar Khan and Justice Faizee sat for the day, Bar Secretary Bashir Ahmed accompanied by a group of lawyers rushed to the court and drew the judges' attention to press reports about the rule.

The secretary told the court that Justice Faizee should not sit on any bench on moral grounds.

The Bar leaders then met with then chief justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain at his chamber and urged him to withdraw Faizee, otherwise they would boycott Faizee's court.

The Bar at an emergency meeting in the afternoon unanimously decided to boycott the bench of Justice Faizee if he is not withdrawn.

Faizee withdrawn: The chief justice withdrew Faizee on October 31, 2004.

Justice Asgar Khan, senior member of Faizee's bench, also declined to sit with Faizee and conveyed the decision to the chief justice the same day.

The chief justice told the SC lawyers that Faizee would no more be allowed to sit on the bench. He also gave the full responsibility of the bench upon Justice Asgar.

Senior SC lawyers and Bar leaders met the chief justice and citing Faizee's fraud expressed their unwillingness to attend his court. A few lawyers suggested not allowing Faizee to sit on the bench until the issue is resolved. The chief justice agreed.

Barsent documents to CJ: The SCBA on November 1, 2004 sent to the chief justice some documents in support of the allegations of tampering with examination results against Faizee.

The chief justice at a meeting with the SCBA leaders and senior lawyers had said he would ask the CU authorities for providing Faizee's exam documents. Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud said when contacted last night.

Stating that Faizee committed fraud with the Supreme Court, Bar Council and the government, Rokonuddin said, "He should not sit in the court from tomorrow."

Vice Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud said when contacted last night.

The Bar at an emergency meeting in the afternoon unanimously decided to boycott the bench of Justice Faizee if he is not withdrawn.

Faizee absent at court: Faizee did not go to the High Court on November 1, 2004, a day after he was withdrawn from the bench. He went on a seven-day leave.

CU moves against 2,400 examinees: The CU authorities took action against 2,400 examinees found involved in tampering with mark sheets and results.

"A probe body detected the irregularities in LLB, BA, subsidiary and BA honours examinations results during 1983-1994 period," Mofakharul Islam Khan, then CU controller of examinations, told The Daily Star on November 2, 2004.

Last CU probe committee: After press disclosure of the scandal, the CU authority on November 9, 2004 formed a probe committee headed by professor of political science Dr Abdul Hakim. But he resigned from the committee on November 28, 2004 for "personal reasons".

Later on November 30, the syndicate formed a fresh committee headed by then vice-chancellor Prof Md Shamsuddin Ahmed. The committee members were Prof Sirajul Islam, dean of arts faculty and a teacher of English, Prof Morshed Mahmud Khan, dean of law faculty, Dr Nurul Mostafa, chairman of computer science, and Prof Kazi Mostain Billah, a teacher of English.

The committee submitted its report a few months ago.

Ctg Bar probe committees: Chittagong Bar Association also formed two committees to probe the scandal.

"The probe bodies will sort out the names of the lawyers engaged in practice with fake certificates," then Bar president Ibrahim Hossain said.

"We will ask them to bring no objection certificates from the Chittagong University authorities within one week. If they fail, we will

Ecneec sends back

FROM PAGE 16
body that examines and approves development projects and programmes, however, approved eight other projects involving Tk 748 crore. Those include Tk 69.58-crore first-phase of project designed for solving waterlogging at Bhabadha in Jessor.

Thousands of people in Jessor, Satkhira and Khulna are affected by the waterlogging problem that causes extensive damage to the crops every year.

The projects that failed to get approval were: the rehabilitation and modernisation of units 1 and 2 of Ghorashal thermal power station (revised) at Tk 180.2 crore, the 150-MW Chandpur combined cycle power plant and its transmission line (revised) at Tk 687 crore, development of support services for Bangladesh Police at Tk 65 crore, improvement of the brake system of Bangladesh Railway at Tk 34 crore and Debagram-Pragati Sarani link road estimated to cost Tk 90 crore.

The Chandpur power project had been awarded to the blacklisted Chinese company Harbin amid allegations of gross irregularities and corruption.

The other controversial project was the rehabilitation of 50-MW third Karnaphuli hydropower unit. The proposal for the project seeks to obtain Tk 180 crore for its rehabilitation under an Italian soft loan whereas a new plant could be installed at a cost of Tk 150 crore.

The division bench of justices MA Matin and AFM Abdur Rahman issued the rule following a contempt petition filed by Faizee's father Mohammed Faiz.

Ctg Bar probe found 40 lawyers:

Chittagong Bar Association's probe bodies identified over 40 lawyers practising in the district who had doctored their mark sheets and certificates of LLB examinations.

Then president of Chittagong Bar Ibrahim Hossain Babul told journalists that the probe bodies have listed some 40 lawyers out of 111, including Faizee, who had earlier been listed as accused of tampering with mark sheets.

not allow them to continue practising and their names will be sent to the Bar Council for cancellation of their enrolment," he added.

Meanwhile, some 20 lawyers of Chittagong Court had also stopped coming to the court following press reports on the result scandal of 110 lawyers.

Bar decision to ask Faizee to show cause: The Bar Council at an executive committee meeting on November 4, 2004 decided to serve a show cause notice on Faizee asking him to explain in seven days why action would not be taken against him for providing false information while obtaining council's certificate.

Age controversy: Another controversy was created when Faizee was found to have tampered with his age for securing lawyer's enrolment certificate from the Bar Council.

Scrutinising Faizee's documents, the council revealed on November 6, 2004 that he gave his date of birth as September 15, 1965 although his SSC certificate shows the date as September 15, 1963.

The two dailies faced contempt charges: The HC on November 8, 2004 issued a rule on Daily Prothom Alo and Daily Bhoror Kagoj asking them to explain why contempt proceedings should not be drawn against them for running reports on Faizee's tampering with his LLB results.

The rule also asked the newspapers to reply to the rule in two weeks why they should not be punished for maligning the HC through the reports.

The Tk-210 crore project for the rehabilitation and modernisation of Ghorashal 1 and 2 power units (revised) was also sent back. In its revised budget, Tk 122 crore has been stated as Russian suppliers' credit. The original cost of the project was Tk 117 crore.

Meeting sources said the Ecneec members have asked the concerned ministry to review terms and conditions of the suppliers' credit.

The Tk 65-crore project for developing support services for Bangladesh Police also did not get the nod. It proposes to buy vehicles from China on interest-free loans. China would supply vehicles instead of giving the loan in cash.

But the Ecneec members raised questions about the need for vehicles for police department and at the same time sustainability of the Chinese cars.

About the Debagram-Pragati Sarani link road, the meeting asked the communications ministry to see whether the proposed two-lane link road could be upgraded to a four-lane highway. It also directed the ministry to study the environmental impact especially the probability of waterlogging, a source said.

The project for improvement of the brake system of Bangladesh Railway was sent back as the meeting questioned the necessity of the project when a master plan is on the card for improvement of the railway sector.

"It might turn out to be unnecessary duplication of works under the master plan to which a number of donor agencies have committed funds recently," another source said.

The other projects that were approved at yesterday's meeting are Paglapir-Tista Barrage road development costed at Tk 32.33 crore, Mohrashat-Kalurghat Water Treatment Plant Tk 82.30 crore, infrastructure development in greater Rajshahi Tk 116.24 crore, development of Military Institute for Science and Technology at Mirpur Cantonment Tk 30.72 crore, Atomic Treatment Centre extension in Bogra, Barisal, Khulna, Mymensingh and Rangpur Tk 45 crore, overhaul of Zia Fertiliser Company at Tk 190 crore and Jamuna Fertiliser Company at Tk 181.48 crore.

Sources said the Ecneec was apprised of some 45 other projects approved by former finance and planning minister M Saifur Rahman during the immediate past BNP-led alliance rule. A finance minister can approve projects costing under Tk 25 crore without the approval of the LLB exam result.

The council, statutory body of legal practitioners, had also decided to file a criminal case against Faizee for providing false information in the affidavit he submitted when he had applied for the council's certificate to practise law as an advocate.

Rokonuddin said, "Our decision has been vindicated and our case against Faizee has been consolidated."

Hearing the news of cancellation of Faizee's LLB certificate, eminent jurist Dr M Zahir told The Daily Star, "It is unheard of and I am puzzled."

Former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Mahbubey Alam said, "He (Faizee) should go immediately. If he doesn't want to resign, the president should immediately form Supreme Judicial Council to remove him."

It is possible to complete the process within two days, he said.

The jurist further said, "He (Faizee) is not a law graduate but he has taken oath by showing that he is a graduate. This is a gross misconduct."

Mahbubey Alam recalled that during his tenure as SCBA president, he had requested Faizee not to sit on the bench. But the additional attorneys general and deputy attorneys general sympathetic to the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami encouraged Faizee to take the post.

"Chittagong University Syndicate would not have taken this decision if the BNP were still in power."

Mahbubey Alam said the then chief justice (CJ) Syed JR Mudassir Husain did not recommend Faizee's confirmation as an HC judge. He heard that the then prime minister Khaleda Zia's adviser Salauddin Quader Chowdhury pressured the government to confirm Faizee as an HC judge, he added.

When contacted, former SCBA secretary Enayetur Rahim said, "Chittagong University should file a case against Faizee, and the president should remove him."

Faizee no longer has the right to act as a judge of the HC, and he should resign, said Enayetur Rahim.

Hasina asks CG, EC

FROM PAGE 16
they have always brought about reforms and changes in the party—and will continue to do so in the future—as per demands of the time.

She said the EC could now start preparing the voter list with photographs in the six divisional headquarters for holding elections within June.

An AL delegation placed the demand at a meeting with the chief election commissioner last week.

Hasina also urged the caretaker government to make sure transparent ballot boxes are used at all polling centres across the country during the elections.

Terming the present caretaker government as repressing, harassing and killing leaders and workers of opponent political parties, looting and plundering public wealth. She asked the caretaker government to initiate a thorough investigation into the matters and bring the corrupt BNP-Jamaat men to trial.

The AL president also demanded investigations into the killings of former AL lawmakers Ahsanullah Master and Shah AMS Kibria, the August 21 grenade attack on an AL rally, the bomb attack on British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury, smuggling of 10 truckloads of arms in Chittagong, and the nationwide bomb blasts on August 17.

Hasina said Jamaat-e-Islami is involved in the entire range of criminal activities and asked the caretaker government to do so the earliest possible time.

Referring to the recent EC reconstitution, she said now the government should take steps against the 345 politically appointed election officials.

Hasina also demanded reforms in the Public Service Commission as, she said, the highest body for

recruiting government officials was severely politicised by the immediate past BNP-led government.

She accused the BNP-Jamaat coalition government of repressing, harassing and killing leaders and workers of opponent political parties, looting and plundering public wealth. She asked the caretaker government to initiate a thorough investigation into the matters and bring the corrupt BNP-Jamaat men to trial.

Hasina also urged the caretaker government to make sure transparent ballot boxes are used at all polling centres across the country during the elections.

Terming the present caretaker government as repressing, harassing and killing leaders and workers of opponent political parties, looting and plundering public wealth. She asked the caretaker government to initiate a thorough investigation into the matters and bring the corrupt BNP-Jamaat men to trial.

The AL president also demanded investigations into the killings of former AL lawmakers Ahsanullah Master and Shah AMS Kibria, the August 21 grenade attack on an AL rally, the bomb attack on British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury, smuggling of 10 truckloads of arms in Chittagong, and the nationwide bomb blasts on August 17.

Hasina said Jamaat-e-Islami is involved in the entire range of criminal activities and asked the caretaker government to do so the earliest possible time.

Referring to the recent EC reconstitution, she said now the government should take steps against the 345 politically appointed election officials.

Hasina also demanded reforms in the Public Service Commission as, she said, the highest body for

2 Rab men killed

FROM PAGE 1

On information, other Rab personnel rushed to the spot and raided the whole area. They recovered two casings of bullets and a mobile phone from there.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Superintendent Abdul Momin has been tasked with the investigation of the incident.

The victims' bodies, however, were kept at the crime scene till filing of this report at 9:15pm yesterday.

Humayun Kabir hailed from Barisal while Phool Mia from Sariakandi in Bogra, said Rab-11 officials.

The relief material was used to build the roof of Astha office and a library in honour of Tarique's father-in-law.

Upazila Project Implement Officer Nazrul Islam filed a case against 28 people including Astha President Nargis Begum on charge of misappropriation of CI sheets meant for relief.

Other accused in the case include: Astha Vice-President and Sadar Upazila BNP President Golam Reza Dulu, Secretary Sharifuddowla Chhotu, Joint Secretary Nur Alam Panu, Treasurer and Tanqil's son Anisul Islam Amit, Member Sharifuddowla Chhotu, and Juba Dal leader Masudul Haq, Member of Juba Dal President Ehsanul Haq Munna.

The law enforcers also recovered 40 CI sheets from the house of Manir Hossain, 16 pieces from the house of Ansar Ali and 16 pieces from the house of Nurul Islam. Another eight pieces were recovered from the house of Zarina Begum.

Police arrested and Zarina Begum and Dilmor, son of Nurul Islam.

DHAKA

Khilgaon police yesterday impounded two vehicles including a luxurious Toyota Prado owned by Chowdhury Alam – an influential BNP leader and ward commissioner of Dhaka City Corporation.

The two vehicles – Toyota LandCruiser TX Limited (Dhaka Metro Gha 11-7023) and Toyota Will VS (Dhaka Metro Kha 12-0250) – were confiscated by Khilgaon police from Alam's residence at 315/C Khilgaon.

Retail market price of Toyota Prado is now Tk 55 lakh while Toyota Will VS is Tk 19 lakh said the police officials.

Officer-in-charge of Khilgaon Police Station SMA Zahid told The Daily Star that these vehicles were impounded as part of an ongoing investigation to assess the value of Alam's wealth to compare with his income.

Alam had been placed on a one-month detention after he surrendered to the court on February 23.

COMILLA

UNB adds: Joint forces and officials of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) confiscated valuables from the house of former BNP MP Engineer Manjurul Ahsan Munshi at Debibidar yesterday.

Engineer Munshi, one of the 50 corrupt