

PRIVATE UNIVERSITY ORDINANCE-2008 APPROVED

New ordinance allows foreign campus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Council of Advisers yesterday approved the Private University Ordinance-2008 with a provision allowing foreign university campus.

According to the new ordinance, any individual or institution will be able to set up campus or conduct course in the name of any foreign university or institution with prior permission of the government.

It was decided at a meeting of the Council of Advisers with Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in the chair.

University Grants Commission (UGC) in its draft recommended against foreign university campus. UGC banned 56 foreign university campuses in the capital and four other cities after allegations against them of selling certificates of different degrees without imparting quality education.

UNB adds: The council also approved the Policy 2008 for Increased Private Participation in Power Sector for augmentation of electricity production in the

country by private entrepreneurs on their own or in joint venture with government.

It also approved a proposal withdrawing the draft Ombudsman (Amendment) Ordinance 2008 as a new parliament is coming up soon and the present interim government is almost at the end of its tenure.

Furthermore, the meeting approved Bangladesh Economic Zones Ordinance 2008 aimed at 'enhancing industrialisation and employment generation in the country'.

It also approved some additions and amendments to the BEPZA Act 1980.

The council sent back the Voters' List (Amendment) Ordinance 2008 back for further examination.

CA's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim briefed newsmen about the outcome of the meeting.

The private universities will have to operate on its own campus to be specified in the certificate provided by the government.

"A private university cannot run its

activities at any place other than on campus mentioned in the certificate," it is stated in the draft law meant for streamlining a mushroom growth of private universities and their off-campus off-shoots.

However, a government certificate holding private university can apply for one or more outer-campus in different places in the country. And under government permission, as per rules and regulations, the private university can operate one or more outer-campus.

Under the new ordinance no person can set up campus after the name of any foreign university or institution or cannot conduct any programme or course and cannot admit students.

The private university can also operate distance-education programme with prior permission from the government.

Members of the Council of Advisers attended the meeting at the CA's office. Cabinet secretary, secretary of CA's office, CA's press secretary and secretaries of ministries concerned were also present.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addresses the newly elected office-bearers of Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) at Dhanmondi party office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

MOMIN MURDER OC Rafiq finally named as prime accused

COURT CORRESPONDENT

AKM Rafiqul Islam, former officer-in-charge (OC) of Motijheel Police Station, has been finally named as the prime accused in Kamrul Islam Momin murder case.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Detective Branch (DB) of police had earlier dropped his name from the charge sheet as they did not find any evidence against him.

Momin, 18, a student of Dhaka Commerce College, was killed by a gang of criminals in front of his residence at Kafrul when he was going to college on September 13, 2005.

On receiving a judicial inquiry report prepared by a metropolitan magistrate, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) AKM Enamul Haque on November 16 took the charges against OC Rafiq into cognisance.

Rafiq was sent to jail on October 16, 2005, after he surrendered to a Dhaka court seeking ad-interim bail in connection with the killing. He has been in jail custody since then.

Two former MPs, BIWTA chief chargesheeted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday approved submission of seven charge sheets against 11 people including two former lawmakers and chairman of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) on different charges.

This was stated by ACC Director General (admin) Col Hanif Iqbal at a routine press briefing in the city.

He said the ACC has so far forwarded 268 cases to the Truth and Accountability Commission (Tac) following application of graft suspects for making voluntary disclosures about ill-gotten wealth while there are 26 cases pending with the commission.

The ACC will press charges against former lawmaker Dr Mohammad Ali for amassing wealth worth Tk 5.68 lakh by illegal means and concealing information, while his wife Rabeya Khatun, principal of Rabeya Ali Mahila College, will be accused in another

charge sheet for acquiring wealth worth Tk 39.67 lakh beyond known sources of income.

Former lawmaker Dr Abdul Karim Abbasi and two others will be accused in another charge sheet for accumulating wealth worth Tk 57 lakh by illegal means and concealing information about the wealth.

BIWTA Chairman Dr Reaz Hasan Khandaker will be charge-sheeted for taking Tk 7 lakh in bribe.

The charge sheets in three other graft cases will be submitted against five individuals for misappropriation of money and bribery. The accused include a banker, a land official and a Titas Gas employee.

Meanwhile, the ACC caught Customs Inspector GM Shahjahan and Customs Superintendent Golamur Rahman red handed while taking Tk 60,000 in bribe from a businessman in Feni.

Shahjahan was caught red handed while taking the bribe from one Mohammad Selim.

Rajuk to invite applications for 6,000 plots in Purbachal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) is going to invite fresh applications for about 6,000 plots in Purbachal New Town Project within a day or two.

"We will give about 6000 more plots in Purbachal Project through lottery as we on Sunday won the legal battle over 1129 acres of land at Kaliganj of Gazipur for the project," said Rajuk Chairman Md Shafiqul Islam.

He said the criteria for allotment of plots in Purbachal will be like the previous projects.

Rajuk is also planning to give about 1100 plots at Uttara and applications will be invited in this regard shortly, said another Rajuk official.

ABM Rafiqul Islam Khan, project director of Purbachal New Town Project, said they have got over 1129 acres of land which will be allotted dividing into 3 kathas, 5 kathas, 7.5 kathas and 10 kathas plots.

The Purbachal project is being implemented on 6150 acres of land, said Rafiqul.

Change in admin

UNB, Dhaka

ABM Abdul Haque Chowdhury, OSD (Secretary) at Establishment Ministry, has been made member of Privatisation Commission, said a handout yesterday.

Meanwhile, Md Mamunur Rashid Chowdhury, additional secretary of Information Ministry, has been appointed acting secretary of Religious Affairs



(From right) Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain, former adviser to the caretaker government Sultana Kamal, writer Shahriar Kabir, Justice Gholam Rabbani, columnist Syed Abul Maksud and Prof Abul Barakat hold copies of a book titled 'Okalati O Jajati Jiboner Jolorekha' by Justice Gholam Rabbani at its publication ceremony at Words 'n Pages in the city yesterday.

JUSTICE RABBANI'S BOOK LAUNCHED Call to resolve problems in judicial system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a book launching ceremony yesterday said Justice Mohammad Gholam Rabbani in his book has pointed out many problems in the judicial system, which need to be resolved immediately on the basis of consensus in order to make the judiciary effective.

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain unveiled the cover of the book titled 'Okalati O Jajati Jiboner Jolorekha' at the ceremony at Words 'n Pages library at Gulshan in the city. Adorn Publication organised the event.

Dr Kamal said Justice Rabbani, as a lawyer, has done a lot for the nation and his contribution as a judge is outstanding.

He said Justice Rabbani wrote down the problems facing the judiciary, which he has witnessed. "This book is very timely and invaluable as he highlighted many facts."

These problems should be

resolved immediately on the basis of consensus, he said, adding that "a society no longer remains civilised when its people lose faith in the judicial system and the rule of law."

Dr Kamal, also the president of Gono Forum, said there was an effort to bring the anti-liberation elements and corrupt people to book, but these elements have again escaped the long arm of the law, posing a threat to democracy and civilisation.

Writer and journalist Shahriar Kabir said the nation needs people like Rabbani in its critical period as such great people inspire us to wage movement against injustice and wrong.

Referring to Justice Rabbani's verdict on Fatwa, he said the religious fanatics had then declared Rabbani a 'Murtaad', but the then government did not take any action against them, which contributed to the rise of fundamentalism in the country.

"We need to raise voice against the fundamentalists socially and legally," he added.

Former adviser to the caretaker government Sultana Kamal said the directions justice Rabbani gave in his book are important for the nation.

Noted economists Dr Atiur Rahman and Dr Abul Barakat, columnist Syed Abul Maksud, Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, Prof Munsur Musa, Syed Zakir Hossain, publisher and chief executive of Adorn Publication, and Nima Rahman, proprietor of Words 'n Pages, also spoke.

S Arabia issues over 50,000 Hajj visas

METRO DESK

The Royal Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has issued a total of 59,036 visas for Bangladesh Hajj pilgrims, says a press release.

All the passports with Hajj visa have been handed over to the government Hajj office as well as travel agencies.

CDM plant opens today

BSS, Dhaka

The first project under Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under Kyoto Protocol will be commissioned on the outskirts of the capital today.

WWR Bio Fertiliser Bangladesh Ltd, a joint venture company of Waste Concern, in association with World Wide Recycling BV, a Dutch company, has established the compost plant at Bhulta on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway, about 12 kilometres off the capital.

Adviser for Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock CS Karim and Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser on Environment and Forest Raja Devasish Roy will inaugurate the plant.

The plant built at a cost of 12.5 million euro will have initial capacity to handle 138 tons of organic wastes a day and it will increase to 700 tons after installation of two more plants -- one at Gazipur and the other at Savar by 2009.

Director of the Department of Environment (DoE) Mohammad Reazuddin told BSS that it is the first project

registered and approved by the Executive Board of CDM under the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Under the CDM companies, rich countries outsource their obligations to cut carbon emissions by sponsoring carbon-cutting schemes in poor countries.

Executive Director of the Waste Concern AHM Maqsood Sinha said under the project, vegetable wastes from markets will be collected from the markets in the Dhaka City Corporation area using project's own transport network and taken to compost plant.

The plant will produce 50,000 tons of compost annually, creating job opportunities for some 800 urban poor, he said.

The CDM project will reduce annual emission of 4,300 tons of methane (equivalent to 89,000 tons of carbon dioxide), a highly potential greenhouse gas (GHG), opening up a gateway for Bangladesh to tap the CDM opportunity to improve its energy efficiency.

Meghna Bridge opens to traffic

UNB, Dhaka

The Meghna Bridge on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway opened to traffic yesterday evening after completion of the month-long repair work.

The emergency repair work on 13 expansion joints of Meghna Bridge began on November 5 and scheduled to be completed by December 4, said a handout.

The repair work has been completed 10 days ahead of the scheduled time, it said.

Gen Hafiz made envoy to Kuwait

BSS, Dhaka

The government has appointed Maj Gen Abdul Hafiz, psc, as the Bangladesh ambassador to Kuwait.

Prior to his new assignment, Gen Hafiz was the director general of the Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party, says a press release.

He was commissioned in the Bangladesh Army on May 8, 1977.

Hafiz held many important positions, including General Officer Commanding of the 33 Infantry Division, Commander of the 44 Infantry Brigade of the Army Headquarters, Deputy Force Commander of the UN mission and Commandant of the Bangladesh Military Academy.

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- Transfer students from reputed Universities

Deadline for Spring 2009 Intake: 26th November
Admission Test: 29th November

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Admission Form: Available at the EDU Front Office or may download from EDU Web: www.eastdelta.edu.bd and send it duly filled along with a bank draft of Tk. 400 in favor of East Delta University.

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Bibi Russell
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