Anomalies found in NU recruitments

WASIM BIN HABIB

An enquiry committee found gross irregularities in the appointments of staff to the National University during the tenure of Vice-chancellor Prof Aftab Ahmed.

The committee was formed last year to investigate the irregularities including illegal recruitment of 1,105 staff at the National University during the tenure of the BNP-led alliance government.

The committee in its report said the claim of the authorities that two advertisements were put in two newspapers on September 11 and 15 in 2004 was not true.

One of the newspapers at that time claimed that it had not published any such job advertisement of National University.

The report also said officials and employees were appointed by creating unnecessary posts for which the university incurred a loss of Tk 150 crore till June 2009.

It found that proper process was not followed in selecting the candidates.

The committee submitted its 642page enquiry report to the education minister yesterday. On January 4, it submitted the report to Prof Quazi Shahidullah, vice-chancellor of the university.

The committee yesterday handed over a copy of the report to Rashed Khan Menon, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on education ministry.

In a synopsis of the report obtained by The Daily Star, the committee said a total of 1,222 teachers, officials and employees including 573 on ad hoc basis were appointed during the tenure of Prof Ahmed.

The report said many of the officials and employees were made permanent before their probationary periods were over in violation of the rules.

It said the total number of staff and the numbers of affiliated colleges were 628 and 1,436 respectively before Dr Aftab joined the university but the numbers stood at 1,821 and 1,586 when he was removed.

The number of appointments was

out of proportion with the increased number of colleges, the committee observed.

Posts of teachers were created and around 72 appointments were made to those posts which the enquiry committee deemed unnecessary as the university doesn't have any students.

Around Tk 7.30 crore has been spent as salary and allowances for those teachers, it added.

The committee also found lack of transparency in the selection process of the technical posts like senior programmer, programmer and executive engineer as no professional experts were present in the selection committee.

Even, some incompetent candidates, who do not have the primary qualification, were given appointments to some technical posts, the committee said.

It said direct appointment was made to the posts of deputy registrar and other equivalent posts in contrary to the job rules.

The audit of the government objected to the financial facilities being provided to the candidates appointed tee.

contractually, the report said adding that six posts of assistant proctor were created unnecessarily for the university that does not have any students.

The committee held around 50 meetings and reviewed the information received from the university administration, syndicate decisions and several documents. It also collected written information from the staff and got through the newspaper clippings.

After receiving the report the education minister said necessary steps would be taken after reviewing the report.

The committee headed by National University Pro-VC Prof Dr Abu Sayeed Khan was formed on April 18 last year. The members of the committee are NU Pro-VC Prof Tofail Ahmed Chowdhury, Treasurer Principal Quazi Farruque Ahmed, Eden College Principal Prof Mahfuza Chowdhury. Dean (acting) of NU Master's Education, Training and Research Centre, Dr SM Abu Raihan is the member secretary of the commit-

Regional cooperation a must to fight human trafficking

Speakers tell meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a dissemination meeting yesterday called for regional dialogue and cooperation to address the issue of trafficking in persons.

Today persons are being trafficked not only for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation, but also for the purposes of forced labour and organ removal, said State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury.

She also stressed the need for concerted efforts of the regional states to raise awareness about human trafficking.

The International (IOM) in collaboration with also spoke.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) organised the regional dissemination meeting on a study 'Saarc Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution: Review and Current Status' at a city hotel.

About 30 people from Afghanistan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and host country Bangladesh are taking part in the two-day meeting.

Rabab Fatima, regional representative for IOM, South Asia, hoped that the rich and diverse representation at the meeting will bring forth an outcome that covers the diversity of the problem in the region.

Sonomi Tanaka, Gender Organisation for Migration Development specialist of ADB.

The meeting is aimed at creating a forum to strengthen regional coordination and advocacy across the Saarc member states to combat trafficking in person through effective and full implementation of the Saarc Convention in Trafficking in Persons.

The study found that the convention was limited in its scope of application, since it only referred to trafficking in women and children and did not addresses the issue of male trafficking, particularly as forcedlabour.

The study also suggested that there is need for greater cooperation among the Saarc member states and further uniformity in domestic trafficking definitions, laws and penalties.

VULNERABILITY TO EARTHQUAKE

Decision to check some buildings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The high-powered interministerial Earthquake Preparedness and Awareness Committee yesterday decided to check a number of buildings in Dhaka city to see how far they are sustainable in the event of a major earthquake.

The committee, headed by Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque and formed following a High Court order on July 27, 2009, took a number of decisions at a meeting at the ministry.

It will form a technical subcommittee to check a sample number of buildings to see whether they are compliant with Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) and set a required tolerance level (7 on Richter scale) for earthquake intensity for building construction.

Each ministry and department concerned will have a designated focal officer to follow the programmes on preparedness and rescue operations.

The draft contingency plan prepared for Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) for earthquake disaster management will soon be sent to all the agencies concerned for opinion.

Non-compliance with BNBC and Building Construction Rules, scanty open space, unplanned urbanisation and high density of population expose Dhaka city to increased vulnerability to earthquake disaster, said Director General of Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) Md Farhad Uddin at the meeting with Razzaque in the chair.

Prof Mehedi Ahmed Ansary, committee member and vice-president of Bangladesh Earthquake Society, said BNBC requires buildings in Dhaka to have strength to sustain an earthquake of at least 7-magnitude.

A total of 72,000 buildings will collapse completely in the city in the event of a major earthquake of 7.5-magnitude or above with epicentre at Madhupur fault line which is 65 kilometres away from Dhaka, said Farhad Uddin, citing the research findings of CDMP.

It will cause 33,000 buildings to collapse extensively and 53,000 to collapse moderately and generate 30 million tons of debris.

It may take 88,000 lives if occurs at midnight and 61,000 is at midday. Around 32,000 injured persons will require immediate hospitalisation and expensive medical treatment.

Razzaque said his ministry has procured rescue equipment, including trucks, concrete cutters, cranes and cameras, worth Tk 69 crore and handed them over to Fire Service and Civil Defence and Armed Forces Division.

Procurement of search and rescue equipment worth \$1.7 million is under process.



Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus speaks at a session titled "Rethinking values in the post-crisis world", during the first day of the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos yesterday, which is to be attended by 2,500 top politicians, captains of industries and civil society leaders. Financial reforms, climate talks and Haiti's reconstruction are set to dominate the agenda of the world's elites heading up to the Swiss mountain resort of Davos this week for their annual meeting.

SUICIDE AFTER 'EVE TEASING'

Pinky's family tells of threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pinky's family held a press conference yesterday to appeal for police protection against threatening phone calls and public taunting by Murad's cohorts. Schoolgirl Nashifa Akand Pinky committed

suicide on January 19 in her home in Shyamoli, Dhaka. According to Pinky's suicide note, Murad

drove her to suicide after he slapped her in the face in public. Her uncle Ali Ashraf Akond, who is a complain-

ant in her suicide case, made the appeal at the Bangladesh Crime Reporters Association in Dhaka. He claims their everyday lives are being

paralysed by the phone calls and taunting. Ali also alleges that some daily newspapers and television channels are publishing and broadcasting misleading information about Pinky's alleged affair with Murad.

Ali said that every member of his family has received threatening calls on their cellphones over the last three days.

The caller allegedly uses a mysterious voice to enquire about the whereabouts and well-being of other family members.

"When we ask the caller to give their identity the connection cuts out," he said.

Ali said if they phone the caller back the call is not answered.

The land ministry has directed the deputy

commissioners of Madaripur, Munshiganj and

Shariatpur districts to compensate landowners

affected by the land acquisition for Padma Bridge

land acquisition for the Padma Bridge and com-

pensation held in the land ministry yesterday,

Land Minster Rezaul Karim Hira directed the

officials concerned to disburse compensation to

The officials replied that most of the people

The government has acquired about 1844.11

Around Tk 145.85 crore has been allocated for

the acquisition of 734.72 acres of land in

acres of land in the three districts and allocated

aroundTk408croretocompensatethelandowners.

those who have not yet received any.

affected have received compensation.

During an inter-ministerial meeting on the

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

as quickly as possible.

LAND ACQUISITION FOR PADMA BRIDGE

Ministry asks three DCs to

district.

project.

compensate landowners

"We are suffering a great deal as we receive these calls several times a day." "Two of my nephews have stopped going to

primary school because they cannot face the

teasing," he added. Ali yesterday filed a general diary with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police station. Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammad Reaz

Hossain said police have visited the family home

in West Agargaon several times and will take action if the allegations are proven. The OC said Murad will face a Dhaka court

after being interrogated by police while on a

three-day remand. Police did not collect the memory card which Murad claimed contained photos and telephone

conversations with Pinky. The OC added that police are yet to receive the CID report on Pinky's chit, which she left

before committing suicide. Ali also played a CD containing a recorded phone

call between Murad and an unknown woman. Murad made the phone call from his hideout and allegedly claims responsibility for Pinky's

suicide during the conversation. Ali gave the CD to police as evidence.

Advocate Nurani Bilkis Upama of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, General Secretary of Bangladesh Shishu Sangathan and Chairman Anwar Hossain of Human Rights Legal Aid Society also attended the press conference.

Madaripur district while Tk 216.88 crore for

646.80 acres of land in Shariatpur district and Tk

44.77 crore for 462 acres of land in Munshiganj

living on 75.58 acres of land in Munshiganj, those

on 46.40 acres of land in Madaripur and on 47.82

The ownership of the acquired land has been

handed over to the bridge authorities, the officials

The government has decided to preserve signifi-

acres of land in Mohra mouza of Chandgaon,

Chittagong for the Ministry of Liberation War

The land ministry yesterday approved 0.20

The inter-ministerial meeting approved the

cant fronts of the liberation war of Bangladesh.

acres of land in Shariatpur district.

Liberation War Front to be Preserved

Affairs as the first site of the front.

informed the meeting.

The government is also rehabilitating people

MIRPUR FREE DAY Four-day programme begins today STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-day celebration programme marking the Mirpur Free Day begins today. Mirpur Sangskritik Oikya

Forum is organising the event. Although victory was ensured on December 16, Mirpur was freed on January

31 in 1972 since it was under the control of Bihari and some goons, said Ashiqur Rahman Bhulu, convener of Mirpur Mukta Dibas Udjapan Committee, at a press conference at the Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday.

Reading out a written statement, Bhulu said a group of 87 freedom fighters took position at Muslim Bazar to Water Tank area on January 30 where they were attacked by hundreds of armed Biharis. Many freedom fighters,

including Lieutenant Selim, SP Lodi, Nayek Tajul, Nayek Hafiz, Lance Nayek Nur Islam and soldier Akram embraced martyrdom during the attack. Noted filmmaker Zahir

Raihan, who was searching for his brother and noted litterateur Shahidullah Kaiser, was also killed that day. Later, freedom fighters,

armed forces and policemen attacked the Biharis and freed Mirpur, he said. "We will organise a semi-

nar on January 31 to inform the next generation about the history of Mirpur," said Bhulu.

Shahidul Haque Mama, leader of famous Mama Bahini who took part in the fight to free Mirpur, President of Mirpur Sangskritik Oikya Forum Kazi Mizanur Rahman and Coordinator of Mirpur Dibas Udjapan Committee Mahbub Alam Shahin also spoke at the press conference.

DU COMMITTEE Aggrieved BCL men explode bombs **DU CORRESPONDENT**

Two handmade bombs were exploded on the Dhaka University (DU) campus yesterday following the announcement of 85 new posts of DU unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) that created huge frustration among many leaders

andworkers of the unit. Aggrieved BCL men claimed that vital posts have been filled in with some 'controversial' activists who were from Faridpur and Barisal as the unit president and general secretary hailed from the regions.

At around 1:20pm, two bombs were exploded near Madhur Canteen that created huge panic among students. However, it could not be known immediately who exploded the bombs.

Woman, two daughters jump under train, die

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A woman along with her two daughters killed themselves by jumping under a train at Kaliganj in the district yesterday. The dead were identified as Shahana Khatun, 25, wife of

Sabur Ali of Satgacchia village, and her daughters Shapla and Muslima. Sources said Ali used to torture Shahana very often. After she

was tortured again yesterday, Shahana made her up mind to end this suffering once and for all. After leaving home, she was waiting beside the trail track near

Khosalpur Rail Crossing Gate and when she saw Rajshahibound the Mahananda Express approaching at around 2:30pm, Shahana jumped under it with her daughters. Rashida Begum, stepmother of Shahana, said the latter had

not come to her father's place for several months.

BOOK ON LIBERATION WAR

History changes with change of govt: Dr Murshid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Prothoma Prokashon, a publication house, launched a book on the liberation war entitled 'Muktijuddha O Tarpor: Ekti Nirdolio Itihash' by Dr Ghulam Murshid yesterday.

"Our history changes with the change of the government in our country. So, I felt the need to write an impartial history. I have written this book mainly for the youths who do not know much about the country's history," said the author at the publication ceremony of the book at Liberation War Museum in the city.

"This book provides a comprehensive history of the liberation war. History doesn't know any party or its opinion. It cannot be biased," said historian Prof Syed Anwar Hossain, who presided over the ceremony.

Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury said, "The writer has set an unique standard in this book. He praised good qualities of a historical figure and also tried to find out flaws in the same breath. As a writer, he has tried to remain impartial throughout the book.'

Matiur Rahman, editor of the Prothom Alo, said, "This book takes us to the days of our liberation war and the days after independence."

He also announced that the publication house, Prothoma, is set to begin its journey from the Ekushey Book Fair with publication of about 40 books.

It will encourage researches on the liberation war, he added.

Clash over recovery of JNU dorms: 10 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 people, including a policeman, were injured following a string of clashes between students and policemen on the Jagannath University campus yesterday over recovering its 12 dormitories occupied by illegal boarders.

Eyewitnesses said the clash ensued when policemen attacked the students who were staging a demonstration by putting up a blockade on the road in front of the university with a demand for recovering the dormitories around 11:20am.

Police started chasing the students when some of them from the street started hurling brickbats and stone pieces towards the building of a branch of Bangladesh Bank near the campus. Traffic movement on the streets came to a halt for half an

hour following the blockade. Police arrested three students of the university on charges of vandalism on streets and attack on policemen.

Those who were injured included students, pedestrians, hawkers and a police constable. Chases and counter chases continued for an hour. Police

charged batons to bring the situation under control.

CAR THEFT CASE Accused escapes from police STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An accused in a car theft case escaped from police yesterday afternoon when he was being taken to a Dhaka court. Accused Shafiqul Islam ran

away from the police and disappeared into the crowd in front of the court. Shafiqul was scheduled to give his confessional statement in a car theft case, the police said. Officer-in-Charge of

Dhanmondi police station Mohammad Salahuddin told The Daily Star that the car theft case was filed around three months ago.

BDR members get scholarship STAFF CORRESPONDENT

111 children of

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) has given special scholarships to 111 meritorious children of the border security personnel.

A total of Tk 6.05 lakh has been distributed among the meritorious students under 'BDR DG Special Scholarship', said a press release.

Of them, 101 students were awarded scholarships for obtaining GPA 5 in the secondary and higher secondary level examinations and 10 others for their outstanding results in exams at higher educational institutions.

Zia orphanage case: Hearing adjourned COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday adjourned the hearing on charge framing against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, her elder son Tarique Rahman and four others till March 3 in the Tk 2.1 crore embezzlement case.

Meanwhile, the High Court deferred the hearing till February 2 on the petitions filed by Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman seeking to stay the proceedings of the case filed for misappropriating the money by forming Zia Orphanage Trust.

Judge Mozammel Hossain of the Special Judge Court-3 passed the order after Khaleda and Tarique's lawyer submitted separate petitions seeking adjournment of the hearing.

Khaleda could not appear before the court as she was busy in organising party activities while Tarique Rahman, also senior vice-chairman of BNP, had earlier gone abroad for treatment.

The two others accused-former BNP lawmaker Kazi Saleemul Haq Kamal and Sharfuddin Ahmed--could not appear before the court due to sickness.

ফ্ল্যাট-এর চাবি রেডি রূপায়ণ টাউনের বাসিন্দা ভি. ভি. নাথান (বিদেশী নাগরিক) নির্বাহী পরিচালক দি মাষ্ট অরগানাইজেশন রূপায়ণ টাউন একটি স্বয়ংসম্পূর্ণ সিটি হিসেবে গড়ে উঠেছে। আমি বসবাসের জন্য রূপায়ণ টাউনকে বেছে নিয়েছি কেননা, এর নয়নাভিরাম সবুজের সমারোহ এবং উপযুক্ত নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা আমাকে মুগ্ধ করেছে...

রিহ্যাব ফেয়ার, চট্টগ্রাম ২০১০-এ আসুন তারিখ: ২৮-৩০ জানুয়ারী, ২০১০

ভেন্য : চউগ্রাম ক্লাব প্রাঙ্গণ उन नः : २०

ভাড়ার টাকায় নিজের ফ্র্যাট

*প্রতিটি ফ্ল্যাট বুকিং-এ থাকছে সর্বোচ্চ ১,০০,০০০ (এক লক্ষ) টাকা পর্যন্ত নগদ ছাড়! (এই অফার ৩১ জানুয়ারী, ২০১০ পর্যন্ত প্রযোজ্য)



মাত্র ৪ লক্ষ ১৪ হাজার টাকা ডাউন পেমেন্ট দিয়ে চাবি নিয়ে উঠে পড়ুন নিজের ফ্ল্যাটে বাকিটুকু ২০ বছরের কিন্তিতে

মতিঝিল থেকে ১০ মিনিটের দূরত্বে, ঢাকা-নারায়ণগঞ্জ লিংক রোড সংলগ্ন ভূঁইগড়ে অল্পসংখ্যক রেডি ফ্ল্যাট ও দোকান নিয়ে আপনার অপেক্ষায় রূপায়ণ টাউন

RUPAYAN Housing Estate Ltd. कन करून: 035%৮03२०००, 055%৮03२००১, 055%৮03२००२, 055%৮03२००७, 055%৮03२००८, 055%৮03२००৫, 055%৮०3

কর্পোরেট অফিস: রপায়ণ সেন্টার (৪র্থ, ৫ম, ৬৪, ৮ম, ১০ম, ১৪তম, ১৫তম, ১৯তম তলা) १२ प्रश्राणी वा/व, ज्ञाका-১२১२ কেনি: ৮৮২২৫২৬, ৯৮৬২৫৭৩, ৮৮২৭৫৯১, ৮৮৫৮৪১৩ মোৰাইশ: ০১১৯৮ ০১১৯৯৬, ০১১৯৮ ০১১৯৯৭, ০১১৯৮ ০১১৯৯৫ 03386 03388, 03386 033886, 03386 033880, 03386 033880

মতিঝিল অফিস: বলিয়াদি ম্যানসন (২য় তলা) ১৬ দিলকুশা বা/এ, মতিঝিল, ঢাকা-১০০০ त्मान : केररफ्ठर०, केरफेक्डर, केररके १केड, केररके १९२ মোবাইল: ০১১৯৮ ০১১৯৪৭, ০১১৯৮ ০১১৯৪৯ ০১১৯৮ ০১১৯৫১, ০১১৯৮ ০১১৯৫৩

নারায়ণগঞ্জ অফিস: ১২৬ বি.বি এভিনিউ (২য় তলা) কোন: ৯৭৫০৬০০, ৭৬৩৫২০০ মোবাইল: ০১৭১৬ ৮৯৫২৩৪ 03330 099093, 03636 066669

আখতারজ্জামান সেন্টার (৭ম তলা) ২১-২২, আগ্রাবাদ বা/এ, চট্টগ্রাম কোন: ০৩১ ২৫১৬৭৬০ 2036963, 2036660 क्रावि: १६० ०७ ५६७७५७५

সিলেট অফিস: রোজ ভিউ কমপ্রেক্স (প্রাঃ) লিঃ প্রট-২, ব্লক-বি শাহুজালাল উপশহর সিলেট-৩১০০

খান ম্যানসন (৩য় তলা) রাজগঞ্জ, কুমিল্লা কোন: ০৪২০ ৮২৮০২১৮ মোবাইল: ০১৭১৯ ২২৬০৭৪

নিউইয়র্ক অফিস: ৩৪-২৭ টেইনব্য়ে খ্রিট मुर्छे न१- ১०৫, बट्डाविया এনওয়াই- ১১১০১, ইউএসএ মোবাইল: +১-৩৪৭-৬০০-৪৭৫০