

Health adviser's remarks protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tathya Odhikar Forum yesterday protested the remarks of the Health Adviser to Prime Minister Syed Modasser Ali who said "the government is not bound to disclose health related information to mass media and political candidates have to be appointed at the community clinics."

The forum also demanded withdrawal of the adviser's statement.

In a statement, convenor of the forum Shaheen Anam said this remark of the adviser is contradictory to the objectives and goals of the Right to Information Act, 2009.

The present government passed the Act in the first session of the parliament in 2009, which is being considered as a milestone for establishing good governance in Bangladesh, she said in the statement.

Shaheen Anam said when the government along with various NGOs, development partners and civil society is working for implementing the law, such remarks from the health adviser at this stage gives opportunity to make questions on the stand of the government.

"We expect clear stand of the government regarding this statement," she said.



Covering their faces with black clothes, the students of food technology and nutrition science department of Maulana Bhasani Science and Technology University, stage a demonstration in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday protesting police action and demanding unconditional release of the arrested fellows.

PHOTO: STAR

DU online admission process begins today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) today will launch its first-ever online application process for the participants of the upcoming admission tests for 2010-11 session.

Admission seekers for the various departments can get application forms for the tests from the website addressed www.admission.univdhaka.edu starting from 12:00am today, said DU officials.

The application process will be continued till October 14 this year.

Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said all preparations to start the online process have been completed.

He said this initiative was taken to reduce sufferings that admission seekers have faced in the past when physically buying and submitting admission test forms on the campus.

The previous traditional process also created scopes for some coaching centres to do some illegal business, he added.

Prof Arefin also mentioned a 24-hour hotline number 9669934 that will help students who face difficulty in completing the application process online.

The price of the admission form stays the same as last year at Tk 300 each. Students, however, must pay an additional Tk 20 each for bank charge this year.

Admission seekers must fill in and submit the admission forms as per directions available on the website. They have to download a three-part pay-in-slip, fill it up, and deposit Tk 320 along with the slip to any branch of Agrani, Rupali, Sonali, and Janata banks across the country.

Admit cards for the admission tests will be available on the website after 48 hours of depositing the money. The applicants then have to download the admit cards and get them printed.

Students, who successfully completed HSC or equivalent examinations in 2009 and 2010 and who fulfil other requirements set by the DU authorities, will be eligible to take part in the admission tests.

The admission tests under 'Kha' unit [arts and social sciences departments] will begin on October 29. The tests under 'Ka' unit [sciences], 'Ga' unit [business studies], 'Gha' unit [changing discipline], 'Cha' unit [fine arts faculty] will be held on November 5, November 26, December 3, and December 10 respectively.

CASE AGAINST TARIQUE, MAMUN

Date deferred for second time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred for the second time the date for taking the charges into cognisance against BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman and his business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun in connection with a money laundering case.

Judge Ismail Hossain of the Senior Special Judge's Court fixed November 4 for the next hearing of the case following a time petition submitted by Tarique's lawyer.

Earlier, the same court fixed yesterday for taking the charges into cognisance.

In the yesterday's petition, lawyers said they had earlier filed a writ petition with the High Court (HC) on behalf of Tarique challenging the legality of the case.

After the hearing, the HC issued a rule asking the government to explain why the charges brought against their client should not be quashed. The hearing on the rule is now pending for hearing. So, they prayed for adjournment of the hearing, lawyers said.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on July 6 pressed the money laundering charges against Tarique and Mamun.

ACC Assistant Director Mohammad Ibrahim submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka, accusing the two of laundering Tk 20.41 crore between 2003 and 2007.

Mohammad Ibrahim filed the case with Dhaka Cantonment Police Station on October 26 last year.

The two were arrested during a massive drive against corruption in 2007 and Tarique has been undergoing treatment abroad on parole while Mamun is still behind bars.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Vast areas of costal belt may sink, JS told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vast areas of costal belt including parts of eight southern districts may sink as the sea level will rise by 14 centimetre and 32 cm by 2030 and 2050 respectively due to climate change effects.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud told parliament yesterday that the districts are Noakhali, Laxmipur, Barisal, Bhola, Pirojpur, Jhalokathi, Satkhira and Bagerhat.

While replying to lawmakers' queries, he said according to the study conducted by the Saarc Meteorological Research Centre, sea level at Hiron point of the Bay of Bengal has increased by 4 millimetres in the last 22 years.

The minister also said Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has predicted that the sea level would rise by 9 to 88 centimetres in this century if the present trend of global warming continues.

He said the government is taking various measures including forestation, adaptation and mitigation programmes to tackle adverse impacts of climate change in the costal belt.

In response to another query, Hasan Mahmud said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will formally cast her vote on

September 30 in favour of the Sundarbans so that the mangrove forest can make its place in the world's seven natural wonders list.

He said her initiative will encourage people to cast their votes in favour of the Sundarbans.

The minister also said other measures were taken to promote the campaign for voting in favour of the Sundarbans including organising an event show in Dhaka with participation of the celebrities of Bangladesh and India.

On setting up a new botanical garden at Sitakunda in Chittagong, he said the government has already decided to establish the garden at a cost of Tk 20 crore.

He also said the government has planned to establish an aviary and recreation park on 210 acres of land at Rangunia upazila in Chittagong by 2013, which will be first of its kind in the country.

It will cost Tk 18 crore and will be named after 'Sheikh Russell Aviary and Eco Park', he said.

আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত

গত ২৬ শে সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১০ ইংরেজী তারিখে হাবিব গ্রুপ অফ কোম্পানিজ এর পরিচালক

জনাব মোহাম্মদ মাহবুব আলী সাহেব ইন্তেকাল করেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহি ওয়াইন্না ইলাইহি রাজিউন) তাঁর মৃত্যুতে আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত।

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আমীন।

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