

APPOINTMENT OF NU STAFF  
SC judge feels  
embarrassed  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court judge yesterday felt embarrassed to hear a petition for staying a High Court verdict that declared the appointment of 807 National University staff illegal.

Justice MA Wahhab Miah, the chamber judge of the Appellate Division, however, did not mention any reason for his embarrassment, Barrister Nasiruddin Ashim, a counsel for the petitioners, told reporters.

The lawyer said the petition will now be sent to the chief justice for his decision.

Additional Attorney General Murad Reza told The Daily Star that Justice Wahhab may have personal difficulties to hear the petition.

Of 807 sacked NU officials and employees, 278 filed the petition with the apex court of the country on September 6 seeking stay on the HC verdict.

The HC on August 23 ruled that appointment of the 807 staff recruited in between November 17, 2003 and August 31, 2004 in the university illegal.

Acting upon the HC verdict, the NU authorities on Sunday hanged a list of 807 sacked officials and employees on the notice board of its Gazipur office.

Earlier Saturday, the NU syndicate at an emergency meeting decided to sack 821 officials and employees who were recruited through a fake advertisement during the tenure of the BNP-led alliance government.

Meantime, the sacked staffs of the university, under the banner of Job Preservation Committee, continued their sit-in yesterday on the university campus at Board Bazar in Gazipur.



Eminent writer and columnist Syed Abul Maksud speaks at a rally on the Central Shaheed Minar premises in the city yesterday while, inset, Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital launches 'Virtual blood bank' in memory of Tareque Masud and Mishuk Munier.

RALLY AT SHAHEED MINAR FOR ROAD SAFETY, RESIGNATION OF ABUL

# Call to remove currupt ministers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil society leaders and road safety activists yesterday demanded resignation of all corrupt ministers and investigation into the irregularities in different government offices.

They made the call at a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar premises as part of their ongoing movement for a set of demands including road safety and removal of Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain for his failure to improve the country's shattered communications system.

Many of them criticised the shipping minister for his recent remark that drivers

should be given licence without a written test.

"We are not against the government. We are against its irregularities, mismanagement and inefficient persons. It is a non-political and non-violent movement and we want to ensure people's rights through it," said eminent writer and columnist Syed Abul Maksud, who has been leading the movement.

Communications is a vital sector in a country and the state's economical development largely depends on it. So, the movement is against the irregularities lies in this sector, said Maksud while addressing the rally attended by the members and leaders of different socio-political and cultural

organisations.

Noted journalist Kamal Lohani said although the communications minister claims that the condition of roads across the country is good but people know the reality. "Today, people have raised their voices against irregularities and it will certainly spread out across the country," he said.

Actress Rokeya Prachi, who moderated the rally, said the movement will continue until their demands are met.

The other demands were stopping issuance of illegal driving licence, ensuring discipline in mass transport system, enacting tougher law to curb road accident, proper training for drivers and ensuring

accountability in the administration.

The movement began on August 24 following the demise of filmmaker Tareque Masud and journalist Mishuk Munier in a road accident on August 13.

Mujahidul Islam Selim, Robaet Ferdous, Ruhin Hossain Prince, Khalekuzzaman, Asif Munier, engineer Enamul Haque, Sagor Lohani, Bhaskar Rasa, Manabendra Dev, among others, were present in the rally.

Meanwhile, Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital yesterday began a 'virtual blood bank' activity at the Central Shaheed Minar premises marking one month after Tareque Masud and Mishuk Munier's death.

'Remove chemical depots from Old Dhaka'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some environmentalists yesterday reiterated their demand that chemical factories and warehouses be removed from the residential areas in Old Dhaka.

Despite huge public support in favour of the eviction of chemical warehouses, a section of businessmen is conspiring to keep the warehouses in the residential areas, they said.

The section is trying to harass the activists who are conducting drive to remove the warehouses, they added.

The environment activists were speaking at a press conference in Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) auditorium in the city yesterday, said a press release.

Poba chairman Abu Naser Khan, cultural personality and journalist Kamal Lohani, and Green Mind Society's president Ameer Hasan, among others, addressed the conference.

The speakers said although the government directed to remove the chemical depots from Old Dhaka, there is no progress in its implementation.

Some quarters are trying to misguide the government by giving wrong information to continue their chemical businesses in residential areas, they alleged.

Their other demands include ban on producing, marketing, and storing of chemicals in residential areas to ensure public safety, formulation of a policy for producing, marketing, and storing of chemical substances, arrangement of proper training for those who handle chemical warehouses, and establishing a separate industrial area on the outskirts the city for chemical factories and depots.

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