

Buet students

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Nazrul Islam and Pro VC Prof M Habibur Rahman bringing 16 allegations against them. The protest has stopped the academic activities of the university for the last 10 days as a number of teachers, including the leaders of the teachers' body, refrained from taking classes. The association leaders said they would keep from taking classes until the VC and Pro VC resigned.

Meanwhile, students of the university on several occasions formed human chains on the campus urging the teachers to resume classes. They implored that their academic progress would seriously be affected if the teachers continue to boycott classes.

In a press conference held on April 15 the teachers' association claimed that the university authorities' appointment of Habibur Rahman, a professor of the civil engineering department, to the post of Pro VC was based solely on his political affiliations.

Prof Rahman was appointed as Pro VC on September 23, 2009.

The university authorities had violated the Buet custom of maintaining seniority with regard to promotion and appointments, alleged the teachers' association. They also claimed that the VC had begun abnormal and massive restructuring of the university administration since he took charge on August 31, 2010.

The VC and Pro VC had flouted the university tradition by forming a separate seven-member body comprised of partisan people for the appointment and promotion of Buet officials, they alleged.

Prof Muhammad Muzibur Rahman, president of the teachers' association, cited the appointment of partisan official Kamal Ahmed to the post of interim registrar by the VC as another example of violation of the university's hierarchy.

The administration was

also accused of changing the marks of two students and appointing teachers based on political considerations.

Buet VC Prof Nazrul Islam denied the allegations at a press conference in Buet Conference Building yesterday. He also refused to resign his post when asked by reporters, claiming no irregularities had taken place during his tenure.

"My resignation would solve nothing. If anything, the crisis would only get worse," said the VC.

Any allegations of violating traditions with regard to the appointment of Pro VC were absurd considering that the post had never existed in Buet prior to the current appointee, Prof Nazrul told The Daily Star.

He said President Zillur Rahman, the Chancellor of the university, had created the post of Pro VC at Buet and the appointment had met with his Excellency's approval.

He also defended the allegedly unusual restructuring of the administration, which had seen several officials being replaced. The administration had desperately needed a change in order to be restored to a position of strength, he said, adding that no irregularities had taken place during the transition.

Earlier on April 11, Buet Syndicate, the university's policy-making body, had urged the agitating teachers to discontinue their protest and resume their academic duties.

On April 12 the Buet Teachers' Association had called on Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid at his office, urging him to intervene to solve the ongoing problem and ensure a return to the normal academic activities of the university.

The minister requested that they talk to the VC and Pro VC to reach a solution. Later that day, Nahid sat with the VC and Pro VC and asked them to sort out the problem in concert with the teachers' association.

Last witness produces TV reports

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documentaries and TV reports on the Liberation War.

Sayedee, Naybe-e-Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, is among nine accused facing crimes against humanity charges at the international crimes tribunals.

Helal Uddin, the investigation officer of the case against Sayedee and the last witness, yesterday described the general context of the Liberation War in 1971, formation of auxiliary forces of Pakistani occupation army and their atrocities.

However, yesterday he did not say anything specific about direct involvement of Sayedee in the atrocities.

The tribunal, the first of two courts formed to deal with crimes committed during the 1971 Liberation War, would resume recording the deposition of Helal

today.

When yesterday's proceeding began at 10:35am, Helal gave a description of the night of March 25, 1971. He presented a video containing three reports broadcast by US television channels NBC and CBS.

One report covered the atrocities committed at Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University on that night while the other two were on rape victims and atrocities committed in the area of greater Khulna region during the war.

Helal presented another video clip on the formation of the first Bangladesh government, the Mujibnagar Government at Baidyanathola mango grove in the then Meherpur subdivision, Kushtia, on April 17, 1971.

A two-hour documentary titled "71 er Muktiuddher Itihas" (the history of

Liberation War of '71) prepared by television channel ATN Bangla was also shown before the tribunal.

He said Rajakar Bahini (collaborators' force) was formed with 96 Jamaat activists in Khulna in May, 1971 under the leadership of Moulana AKM Yusuf. Yusuf also named the force. In August, 1971, the then Pakistani government issued a gazette notification recognising the force, as an auxiliary force of the Pakistani army.

During the last minutes of yesterday's proceedings, Helal said in Pirojpur district, just like other areas of Bangladesh, the Pakistan occupation force and their auxiliary forces committed crimes like killings, genocide, rape and others against the humanity.

A Peace Committee (another collaborators' force) was formed under the leader-

ship of Khan Bahadur Syed Mohammad Afzal in Pirojpur and the committee men committed such crimes there.

The prosecution in the formal charges alleged that Sayedee committed such crimes against humanity in association with other collaborators in Pirojpur district.

The tribunal then asked the prosecution to resume the deposition today making Helal's statement as short as possible.

Vietnam, US to hold naval drills

AFP, Hanoi

Vietnam and the US will hold five days of "non-combatant" naval exchange activities next week in the port city of Danang, the US Embassy said, amid rising tensions in the South China Sea.

The exercises "underscore the closer ties between the US and Vietnam", according a statement from the United States, which is increasingly seen as a counterweight to Beijing's growing naval assertiveness in the region.

The US 7th Fleet Flagship USS Blue Ridge, the guided missile destroyer USS Chafee and rescue and salvage ship USNS Safeguard will be in Danang port from April 23, according to the US Embassy statement released late Monday.

No attention to resignation

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account after two and a half years and why no gazette notification on his resignation was issued.

He also demanded that the government issue a gazette notification in this regard, as he thinks his dignity and image of the government as well as the prime minister have been tarnished for not doing so.

"I want to know why an embarrassing situation has been created by not issuing a gazette notification. Why mysteriously huge amount of money was deposited to my account after two and a half years when I did not get a single coin as remuneration and allowances as a lawmaker since my resignation? I want answers from the cabinet secretary," commented Sohel Taj.

Sohel Taj, the only son of the country's first prime minister Tajuddin Ahmad, wrote two letters to the cabinet secretary in this regard on Monday and Tuesday respectively.

Cabinet Secretary M Musharrif Hossain Bhuiyan told The Daily Star he cannot take a decision on a matter related to the rank of a state minister. "I need the prime minister's guidelines in this regard," he said, adding that it is the duty of the Cabinet Division to give salary and

wages to every minister and state minister if they officially belong to the government.

He said a state minister does not have to sign his/her cheque in receiving salary and wages as it goes automatically to their accounts.

In the letter, Sohel Taj said he resigned from the post of state minister for home on May 31, 2009, five months after the ruling Awami League-led grand alliance government assumed office, and sent his resignation letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on June 1 according to the Constitution.

"But until today, no gazette has been issued of my resignation," he said in the letter, adding, "As a result, for not issuing the gazette, the image of the present government as well as the prime minister and my personal dignity have been damaged and an untoward incident has been occurred centring it."

Moreover, the Cabinet Division has deposited at a time the remuneration and allowances of a state minister from August 2009 to December 2011 [29 months] to his personal account and kept depositing the cheque of monthly remuneration and allowances until today without informing him, he said adding that he didn't

get his salary as a lawmaker for that time.

A state minister gets Tk 1,20,800 per month including different allowances including house rent and fuel allowance.

Sohel Taj told The Daily Star there is no provision in the Constitution that resignation of a state minister would not be accepted by the prime minister. He said he has been kept as state minister on the government's list forcibly and given remuneration and allowances against the position forcibly.

"These are clear human rights violation and I'm being disregarded intentionally. I'm no longer a state minister."

He claimed his passport has not been allowed to change by the government and he has to face embarrassment every time he travels. "Enough has happened so far and it has to end now," he urged the government.

Asked about the matter, former cabinet secretary and adviser to a caretaker government Akbar Ali Khan told The Daily Star Sohel Taj did this on his moral point of view.

"It's a right decision on ethical consideration and it is his moral duty to give back the money which he has taken. That's great," he added.

Destiny plea against

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not followed due procedures while inspecting his company.

The HC bench of Justice Farid Ahmed and Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif concluded hearing on the petition on April 11 and passed the rejection order yesterday.

Petitioner's counsel Mizan Sayeed told The Daily Star that his client might appeal to the Supreme Court against the HC order.

Yesterday, Commerce Secretary Ghulam Hussain submitted a set of recommendations to Finance Minister AMA Muhith at the latter's secretariat office.

"I have recommended the finance ministry form a commission to investigate the activities of Destiny. The commission will take action against the fraudulence of Destiny," Hussain told The Daily Star after the meeting.

He said a fulltime com-

mission like the one investigating the activities of Jubo Karmasangsthan Society (Jubok), which was banned a few years ago, could be formed to look into the matter of Destiny.

The BB report was revealed last month. It said Destiny Multipurpose Cooperative Society, a concern of Destiny-2000 Group Ltd, had seen an astronomical rise in its capital, shareholder, profit and investment since 2009.

The company's paid-up capital has increased to nearly Tk 300 crore in 2009-10 from Tk 5.53 crore a year ago. The figure jumped to nearly Tk 1,200 crore in 2010-11.

Loans and investments grew to Tk 569 crore in 2010-11 from less than Tk 23 crore in 2008-09; they rose over 213 percent between 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Destiny posted a staggering 354 percent increase in

its net profit in 2010-11 from that of a year ago. These figures, however, are not certified by any chartered accountant and can easily misguide people, says the Bangladesh Bank report.

As of June 30, 2011, the firm showed Tk 656 crore in assets whereas it actually spent the amount for research and development. Had it shown the amount as expenses for research and development, the balance sheet would have been negative, said the central bank.

The Bangladesh Bank probed the activities of Destiny Multipurpose Cooperative Society on instructions from the finance ministry.

Following the report which was sent to the ministry of finance last month various newspapers ran reports on numerous irregularities of the company.

Latifur wins Business

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commitment to social responsibility and ethical values.

This is the first time a Bangladeshi businessperson has received the prize, which is considered the most celebrated recognition in the business world. An independent committee of Nobel Prize winners in peace and economics chooses the award's recipients.

The sponsors of the prize -- the Business for Peace Foundation, Oslo, and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) -- announced the names of the recipients yesterday.

"We congratulate you with the exceptional appreciation you have thus been given by the Award Giving Committee, and we are truly proud to have you in the exclusive group of Business for Peace Honourees," the Business for Peace Foundation said about Latifur Rahman, chairman and chief executive officer of Transcom Group.

Mahbubur Rahman, president of ICC Bangladesh, announced the awards at a press conference at the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel

in the capital.

"The award is the highest distinction given to a businessperson for outstanding business worthy accomplishments," said the president of ICC Bangladesh.

The Business for Peace Foundation, formed in 2007 to promote relationship between business and peace, has been awarding seven businesspersons from across the globe every year since 2009.

This year's other six winners are: Ibrahim Abouleish (Egypt), Anil Agarwal (India), Eduardo Eurnekian (Argentina), Dr Vlasas Lasas (Lithuania), David W Mac Lennan (USA), and Reginald Mengi (Tanzania).

The seven honourees will be presented with the awards at the 2012 Oslo Peace through Trade Summit on May 7 in the Oslo City Hall, Norway. The summit entitled "Essences of Trust in Business Today" will feature keynote speeches from renowned personalities.

In 2010, the award's recipients were Ratan Tata of India, Francis Yeoh of Malaysia, Stef Wertheimer of Israel, Roberto Servitje

Sendra of Mexico, Venkataramani Srivathsan of Nigeria, William Rosenzweig of USA, and Emily Cummins of UK.

Phenomenal success in business and strict ethical and responsible business practices have helped Rahman win this prestigious award.

Transcom that started off with tea plantations in 1885 is now one of the country's largest conglomerates comprising 16 public and private companies. Having an annual turnover of more than \$350 million (nearly Tk 2,800 crore), the group employs over 10,000 people. Transcom Group paid Tk 551 crore (over \$60 million) as tax, duty and VAT in 2011.

Rahman has set up new enterprises and worked them up through the ladder. All his enterprises are now leaders in their own spheres -- be it newspaper, pharmaceuticals, printing, electronics or food industries. His group posts around 25 percent growth a year.

"I am very humbled and proud," Rahman said in his instant reaction. He said it has been proved that business and ethics can go side

by side.

"If you try business with some ethics, it is possible."

He urged the local business community to be more disciplined, ethical and responsible.

The Transcom Group chairman also has high hopes of Bangladesh's business potentials. Businesses here are growing and will expand further in the next 10 to 15 years, he said.

Rahman is the chairman and CEO of Transcom Group, vice president of ICC Bangladesh, and chairman of Nestlé Bangladesh, Holcim Bangladesh and National Housing Finance and Investments.

He is a director of Linde Bangladesh (formerly British Oxygen) and member of the governing board of BRAC, the world's largest non-governmental organization.

Transcom is the local business partner of international brands like Pizza Hut, KFC, PepsiCo and Philips. Leading Danish insulin manufacturer Novo Nordisk has also chosen Rahman's pharmaceutical company Eskayef as the sole manufacturer of its products after China and India in Asia.

Let's take quizzes and go to Korea!

Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Dhaka invites you to the quiz contest 'Quiz on Korea'.

General Information

'Quiz on Korea' consists of a written test and an interview.

o Written test

- The test will cover all aspects of Korea – Geography, History, Politics, Economy, Culture, Education, etc. – in English.

- The test will be held in the middle of July, 2012.

o Interview

- The applicants who passed the written test will be informed individually via e-mail.

Award

o The winner will be invited to the final round to be held in Korea from August 20th to 31st, 2012 (Date is subject to change).

- All the expenses including a round-trip air ticket and accommodation in Korea will be borne by the Korean Government.

Date & Venue

o Date & Venue of the written test will be posted on the website bgd.mofat.go.kr on Thursday, May 31, 2012.

Eligibility

- Those who hold Bangladeshi citizenship
- Those who have proficiency in Korean and/or English
- * **Minimum communication skills in Korean are needed.**

How to Apply

- Download the application form from the website bgd.mofat.go.kr.
- Submit the application form and a copy of passport (or National ID card) to the Embassy (by e-mail or by post).
- * **Application deadline: Sunday, April 29, 2012.**

Study Material

- Questions of the written test are based on the book 'Facts about Korea'.
- The Embassy will provide the book 'Facts about Korea' for each applicant (up to the first 300 applicants), but we strongly recommend applicants to download the PDF version of the book from the website www.korea.net.

For more information,

Please contact the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Dhaka

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Vacancy Announcement

Promotion of Development and Confidence Building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces vacancy for the following positions for "Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility" under "Service Contract" modality. The duration of the contract is one year initially and subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of Funds.

Confidence Building Expert - 2 positions

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Hard copy of the TOR can be collected from UNDP-CHTDF Offices of Dhaka, Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban. Applications should be submitted no later **May 03, 2012**

"Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants"

"Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply"