

A shame for all teachers

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an individual fails to ensure the protection of students and maintenance of discipline on the campus, but rather puts somebody in peril, he or she should not remain in that position, they observed.

The educationists and university teachers, including proctors, shared their views with The Daily Star following the assault of a female protester by BAU Proctor MA Salam on October 9.

Meanwhile, a three-member probe body formed by the BAU authorities, following the directive of Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid to investigate the incident, commenced its work yesterday.

In addition, the High Court yesterday stayed until November 15 a BAU decision that expelled nine students belonging to Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) on grounds of misbehaving with teachers for six months (one semester).

In response to a writ petition, the HC also issued a rule upon the university authorities to explain in three weeks why their decision to expel the students should not be declared illegal. It also directed the authorities to allow those students to participate in all examinations.

Prof Dr Abdur Rahman of Agronomy Department of Agriculture Faculty, who heads the probe committee, said the committee would talk to teachers and students, especially who were present on the spot, BAU administration and officials to make the investigation neutral.

Termining the act absolutely barbaric, noted educationist Syed Manzoorul Islam said, "Anyone who did such a thing cannot even remotely claim himself to be a teacher. It is utterly despicable and has put the whole teaching profession into shame."

The matter is not only against a female student; it could even be against a male as well, he said. "It is absolutely reprehensible and goes against the ethical norms and all cultural values of the country," said Islam a professor of English at Dhaka University.

A proctor faces many challenges and he or she should be calm and have a logical disposition toward handling hurdles, he said, adding that if anyone cannot handle this problem logically and instead applies force, should not be in this position.

The senior DU teacher

demanding a thorough judicial investigation and punishment of the person for this cowardly act. "Since an employee is also reportedly involved in the incident, thorough investigation is a must to reveal the facts and punishment should be meted out so that such acts are not replicated again," he added.

Former DU proctor Prof AKM Nurun Nabi finds no word to describe what kind of act it was, and observes that it can never be a teacher-like behaviour.

"Assaulting somebody physically is a punishable offence and what he did as a teacher is unethical and heinous act as well. Such an act cannot be acceptable from a proctor," he said.

Also the project director of population science department at DU, Nurun Nabi said, "A proctor is the custodian of discipline and how can he [the BAU proctor] maintain discipline when he is not a disciplined person himself?"

It is the duty of a proctor to ensure protection for a student exposed to danger, he added.

DU Proctor Prof MA Ali said a teacher, be he a proctor or in any other position, cannot rough up a student in any way.

"The act is indecent and uncivilised," he said, adding that the duty of a proctor is to maintain discipline and peace and if any problem arises he or she should solve it through discussions.

Students are like their children and if anybody violates the law, the role of the proctor will be to take steps as per the University Act, said Prof Ali. "But such a thing [assaulting a student] is not desirable at all and cannot come under the law."

In a statement yesterday, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association censured the assault incident heavily and demanded punishment of the perpetrator-proctor and others for attacking the protesters.

Education Minister Nahid expressed deep shock over the incident and asked the BAU authorities to investigate it and take stern action against the people responsible.

University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof AK Azad Chowdhury expressed grave concern over the incident, saying that such acts cannot happen in a civilised country.

"We are monitoring what action the university takes after the investigation," he told The Daily Star.

Asked whether the UGC would probe the incident, he said the commission could not since it was an autonomous institution. But, he said, it will step in "if the university fails [to take action]".

Contacted, BAU Vice-Chancellor Prof Rafiqul Hoque said the university authorities would take punitive action against those found guilty in the probe.

Chairperson

FROM PAGE 1
Bangla branch Deputy General Manager AKM Azizur Rahman.

Meanwhile, Tanvir Mahmud in his professional statement named a number of people who helped him take loans from the bank against forged documents, court sources said.

Details of the statement were not available, but according to the court sources, Tanvir named Azizur, the suspended DMG, as his key partner in the biggest-ever fraud in the country's banking sector.

Azizur, who was arrested on October 14, was placed on the next day on 24 days' remand for interrogation.

According to a Bangladesh Bank investigation report published in May, the controversial Hall-Mark and five other companies took Tk 3,547 crore in loans from the Sonali Bank's Ruposhi Bangla branch using false documents. Of the sum, Hall-Mark alone embezzled Tk 2,686 crore.

After the scam surfaced, Sonali Bank itself audited the branch and found it had lent Tk 3,606 crore to these companies defying banking rules.

Making his statement before Metropolitan Magistrate Keshab Roy Chowdhury, Tanvir said some employees of his company in collusion with a section of bank officials had misappropriated the money, court sources said.

The sources, however, declined to give any other names or elaborate on Tanvir's statement.

Earlier on October 8, a Dhaka court placed Tanvir on a 29-day remand -- 24 days in three cases in connection with the scam and five days in an arms case.

Rab nabbed Tanvir and Tushar on October 7 from a house in the capital's Mirpur area. Rab men recovered a foreign pistol, four bullets and a magazine from Tanvir's possession, Rab's media and legal wing Director Captain M Sohail told The Daily Star.

The elite force later filed an arms case against him with Pallabi Police Station.

Private TV

FROM PAGE 1
Only state-run BTV, Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Sangbad Angstha and private news agencies UNB and bdnews24.com were allowed into the cabinet briefing and discussion programme.

The Press Information Department and PMO officials usually invite journalists to cover cabinet briefings. But neither of the two bodies did so yesterday, PMO sources said.

The unofficial restriction began on Monday when journalists were asked by the PMO not to cover the Awami League (AL) Parliamentary Board meeting at Gono Bhaban.

In the following days, journalists -- except those from the five media organisations -- faced the restriction, which came apparently following "poor coverage" of the head of the government's news in different private television channels and a section of the media.

Contacted, AL Deputy Office Secretary Mrinal Kanti Das said everything would be settled soon.

Talking to the BBC Bangla Service yesterday, Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu said "There is no government instruction to bar the journalists from covering the prime minister's programme."

"I think there might have been a misunderstanding," he said, adding "I will communicate the issue to the prime minister."

Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, however, declined to comment on the matter, reports BBC Bangla Service.

Gen Harun

FROM PAGE 1
from leaving the country without permission from the lower court where the two cases are proceeding.

If Harun breaks any of the conditions, it will automatically cancel the bail, the court said. The bail "will not be regarded as an example" for the other accused to get bail in the cases, added the court.

The bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Farid Ahmed passed the order after hearing two appeals filed by Harun on October 11 against the lower court's orders that rejected his bail prayers and sent him to jail the same day.

In the appeals, Harun sought bail on the grounds of his ill-health.

Khurshid Alam Khan, the ACC's counsel, said the commission was yet to decide whether it would file an appeal with the Supreme Court against the HC order, adding that it should challenge the order.

Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru appeared for Harun, while the additional attorney general represented the government.

Govt mulls

FROM PAGE 1
proposal to law ministry for vetting, the official added.

As per an earlier announcement, the commerce ministry was supposed to appoint an administrator for the group by the end of this week.

The ministry initiated the move when three top officials of the company were sent to jail for their alleged involvement in fraudulent activities.

"The administrator will not have the power to sell the property of the group," said the joint secretary, adding that of the major jobs, the administrator would pay the salary of officials and employees and look after the daily maintenance of the group, as its current board of directors would be dissolved after the administrator's appointment.

The final decision of the ownership of the group and the fate of the subscribers would be decided by the court, the official said, adding, "The process is time-consuming."

On October 11, Commerce Secretary Ghulam Hussain said the decision of appointing an administrator had been taken when an investigation found that 39 companies of Destiny Group had transacted Tk 3,798.94 crore through anomalies.

It adjourned the case proceedings following a time petition of the defence due to "illness" of Abdus Sobhan Tarafder, the conducting defence counsel of the case.

Nafis' family stunned

FROM PAGE 1
carry out a terror attack. They denied he could have been involved.

"My son couldn't have done it," his father, Quazi Ahsanullah, said weeping. "My brother may have been a victim of a conspiracy," said Farid Bilkis.

The FBI arrested 21-year-old Quazi Mohammad Rezwanaul Ahsan Nafis on Wednesday after he tried to detonate a fake 1,000-pound (454-kilogram) car bomb, according to a criminal complaint.

Prosecutors said Nafis travelled to the US on a student visa in January to carry out an attack.

Hours after his arrest, Bangladeshi detectives were at his family's three-story home in the Jatrabari neighbourhood in south Dhaka.

"We are just collecting details about Nafis from his family," one officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to the media.

Nafis family said he was incapable of such actions and he went to America to study business administration, not to carry out any

There was never a threat

FBI caught Nafis in sting operation

AGENCIES

Nafis, a 21-year-old Bangladeshi arrested after he allegedly attempted to detonate what he thought was a bomb, had in fact been under FBI surveillance.

There was never a threat, the FBI said, as Nafis had been closely watched.

Quazi Mohammad Rezwanaul Ahsan Nafis is charged with attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction and attempting to provide material support to al-Qaeda.

He entered no plea when brought before a federal court on Wednesday, BBC reports.

The federal case was the latest where a terrorism plot against the city turned out to

be a sting operation. Four men were convicted in 2009 in a plot to bomb synagogues and shoot down military planes with missiles -- a case that began after an FBI informant was assigned to infiltrate a mosque in Newburgh, about 70 miles north of New York City.

The federal judge hearing the case said she was not proud of the government's role in nurturing the plot, AP reports.

A Pakistani immigrant was convicted in 2006 for a scheme to blow up the subway station at Herald Square in Midtown. His lawyers argued that their client had been set up by a police informant who showed him pictures of Iraq abuse to get him involved in an attack

attack. Nafis was so timid, he couldn't even venture out onto the roof alone, his father said. "He used to take someone to go the roof at night. I can't believe he could be part of it [the plot]."

"He is very gentle and devoted to his studies," he said, pointing to Nafis' time studying at the private North South University in Dhaka.

However, Belal Ahmed, a spokesman for the university, said Nafis was a terrible student who was put on probation and threatened with expulsion if he didn't bring his grades up. Nafis eventually just stopped coming to school, Ahmed said.

Ahsanullah said his son convinced him to send him to America to study, arguing that with a US degree he had a better chance at success in Bangladesh.

"I spent all my savings to send him to America," he said.

Nafis attended Southeast Missouri State University during the spring semester, which ended in May, in pursuit of a bachelor's degree in cybersecurity, university spokeswoman Ann Hayes

said. He requested a transfer of his records in July and the university complied, Hayes said, though she couldn't say where the records were sent.

Mohammad Arif Akunjee, a childhood friend, said Nafis wanted to be a businessman. Just a few hours before his arrest, Nafis talked to his mother over Skype to update her on his plans, Bilkis said.

"My brother told my mother that he was doing well in studies in the US and was transferring to a college in New York," said his sister.

Early yesterday, a relative living in Switzerland called to tell the family Nafis had been arrested.

"We woke up with this terrible news. We just can't believe it," she said.

Ahsanullah called on the government to "get my son back home."

Bangladesh does not have the same record of involvement in global terrorism as Pakistan, with which it once formed a nation before winning its independence in 1971. At least one Bangladeshi was among those detained by the US at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba.

against civilians.

Nafis travelled to the US in January 2012 and sought out contacts to help him with the attack, officials said in a complaint filed in New York on Wednesday.

One of the people he contacted turned out to be a source working for the FBI, US federal prosecutors said.

Nafis was placed under surveillance, and the undercover FBI agent sold him 20 bags of what he said were 50lb of explosives. The suspect then bought and assembled detonators and timing devices.

Officials said there had never been any actual threat.

There was also no allegation that Nafis actually received training or direction from the terrorist group.

Witnesses for Ghulam Azam

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Among the witnesses, Prof Schabas is a teacher of international law at Middlesex University, London, while Sir Devereil is the former commander-in-chief of Allied Forces in Northern Europe.

Defence counsel Barrister Abdur Razzaq on Tuesday said the defence wanted the two foreigners as witnesses for their expert opinions.

He said Ghulam Azam had been charged for command responsibilities during the Liberation War in 1971 and Sir Devereil could give opinions in this regard.

Razzaq further said Schabas would give opinion on mass killing and human rights.

Opposing the submission, prosecutor Syed Haider Ali questioned the need for two foreigners as defence witnesses. He, however, requested the tribunal to hold order for the chief prosecutor's submission regarding the petition.

Opposing the petition on Wednesday, chief prosecutor Golam Arif Tipu said they may appear before the tribunal as witnesses but not to give experts' opinions.

"If the tribunal needs experts' opinion, they have the authority to call on amici curiae," Tipu observed.

The tribunal then fixed Thursday for an order on the petition.

Former Jamaat ameer Ghulam Azam is facing five charges of crimes against humanity committed during

the Liberation War. **SAYEDEE'S CASE**
The tribunal yesterday in an order asked the defence to produce the remaining five witnesses for war crimes accused Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee on Sunday.

Fifteen witnesses out of 20 have so far given depositions for Sayedee.

The tribunal in its order said if the defence failed to produce the witnesses, including the 15th witness Abdus Salam Hawladar on the day, they would be barred from producing them anymore.

The tribunal also directed the prosecution to arrange a bed for Salam as he fell ill on Wednesday. If he falls ill again, he will face cross-examination in bed.

The prosecution yesterday cross-examined Sayedee's son Masud Sayedee on different documents he had submitted before the tribunal to prove his father innocent.

Sayedee, who is facing 20 specific charges of crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War, was produced before the tribunal.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMES TRIBUNAL-2
International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday adjourned until November 7 hearing a contempt of court petition against Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury for allegedly disrespecting the court.

The three-member tribu-

nal led by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir fixed the new date after Abdul Baset Mazumder, counsel for Sajeda Chowdhury, sought an adjournment.

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah filed the contempt of court petition on August 5 against the ruling Awami League leader for allegedly making a statement disrespecting the tribunal.

On August 27, the tribunal asked the AL leader to explain her position about the petition through her lawyer and she submitted her reply on October 1.

The tribunal also deferred to November 7 the hearing of the contempt of court petition against Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury as it wished to hear a similar matter on the same day.

Another Jamaat leader Kamaruzzaman filed the contempt petition against Matia on August 29 for similar reasons and the tribunal asked her to reply.

On October 4, Matia's lawyer submitted her written reply to the tribunal.

Meanwhile, the tribunal also adjourned the cross-examination of Abdur Razzaque Khan, one of the two investigation officers, in the case against Abdul Quader Mollah until October 21.

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Attacker of Malala was held, freed in 2009

REUTERS, Islamabad

The alleged organiser of the Taliban shooting of a Pakistani schoolgirl was captured during a 2009 military offensive against the hard line Islamist group but released after three months, two senior officials told Reuters.

They identified the man who planned the attack on 14-year-old Malala Yousufzai only as Attaullah, and said he was one of the two gunmen who shot her on a school bus this month in the Swat Valley, north-west of Islamabad.

Believed to be in his 30s, Attaullah is on the run and may have fled to neighboring Afghanistan, they said. He organised the attack on

the orders of one of the Taliban's most feared commanders, Maulana Fazlullah, officials said.

The two officials said Attaullah was detained by security forces after a 2009 Pakistani military campaign pushed the Taliban out of the Swat Valley.

"He spent three months in the custody of security forces but was freed after no evidence (of wrongdoing) was found," one official said.

The second source, a senior security official, said authorities had now gathered enough evidence to arrest Attaullah after raiding his house in the Swat Valley, a former tourist attraction.

If Attaullah is in

Afghanistan, finding him could be difficult. Some of the world's most dangerous militants have operated in the unruly, ethnic Pashtun border area for years, a forbidding area hard for security forces to reach.

The officials said Pakistani security forces were trying other ways to bring him to justice.

"His mother and two brothers were taken into custody to force him to surrender," said the second senior official. "Also two other close relatives of Attaullah have been taken into custody because we heard he spent the night in their house after his escape from Swat."

Uttam's mother, aunt freed

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and being interrogated over the attacks, which left at least 18 pagodas and 50 houses damaged in Ramu.

Moktadir, a Shibir activist and student of a private polytechnic institution in Chittagong, circulated the fabricated page from a friend's shop in the upazila. He had a meeting with Tofail at Naikhanchhari on September 28.

The report said Lutfur Rahman Kajal, a local lawmaker and BNP leader, did nothing to prevent the mayhem, although he was present that night in Ramu.

Nazibul Islam, then acting officer-in-charge of Ramu Police Station, failed to deal with the situation on the night of September 28. Ramu upazila nirbahi officer did not play his due role either, it added.

Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir had formed the four-member probe body headed

by the Chittagong additional divisional commissioner to investigate the violence.

The committee made 22 recommendations to avoid recurrence of such incidents. **THEHCORDER**

The court yesterday observed that the detention of the trio without any specific case was illegal and a violation of the constitution.

The bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Farid Ahmed passed the order after Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Amit Talukder had informed it that Madhu and Adi were kept detained although they had not been implicated in any case.

In its order the court said Madhu, Adi and Anisha could stay in Chittagong Circuit House or at their home in Ramu or in the shelter home of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) or wherever they wished.

The government would

provide them with food and other essentials if they stayed at the circuit house or ASK should do it if the three decided to stay at the shelter house, the court said.

ASK, which yesterday sought a directive on the government to release Uttam's family members, became a party in the rule.

Our Cox's Bazar correspondent reports, Uttam's mother and aunt refused to stay in Chittagong Circuit House or ASK's shelter house.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Tawhid Haque handed over Madhu Barua to the custody of his brother Taposh Barua while Adi Barua returned to her husband Tarun Barua.

On Wednesday, the HC issued a suo moto rule asking the government to explain in 12 hours why the detention of the three should not be declared illegal and why they should not be released.

The ruling came following reports published in different

MPS' ACTIVITIES Information ministry seeks copy of TIB report

UNB, Dhaka

The information ministry has sent a letter to Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) seeking a copy of its recent report on MPs in a bid to scrutinise the allegations of irregularities brought against lawmakers.

"...the (TIB) report attracted the attention of the information ministry... a letter has been sent to TIB seeking a copy of the report," said a PID handout yesterday.

Talking to UNB, Mohammad Zahidul Islam, programme manager (outreach, communication) of TIB, said, "We received the letter signed by a joint secretary this afternoon."

Responding to a question, Islam said TIB would submit the copy of the report on Sunday since Friday and Saturday were weekly holidays.

TIB in its recent report said 97 percent of 149 sitting MPs surveyed were involved in "negative activities".

The report, "Analysis of positive and negative role of lawmakers of ninth parliament", was released on October 14.

On Wednesday, Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu said legal action would be taken if the TIB report on MPs' negative activities was found to have been correct.

Talking to journalists at Dhaka Reporters Unity, the minister said the TIB would be asked to submit its full report to the government.

Dinosaur 'thief' arrested in Florida

AFP, New York

A US man accused of smuggling 70 million year old dinosaur skeletons into the United States, including a toothy relative of the bigger Tyrannosaurus rex, was arrested on Wednesday in Florida, officials said.

Eric Prokopi, 38, was charged with conspiracy to smuggle illegal goods, smuggling into the United States, and selling stolen goods, which carry possible sentences of five, 20 and 10 years in prison respectively.

Prof Murshid

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board member Transparency International Bangladesh, was on life support at the hospital's Intensive Care Unit.

Doctors said they found a sign of haemorrhage in his brain in the CT scan.

Earlier on September 23 the 88-year-old was taken to the same hospital after he had suffered a brain stroke, doctors said, adding that he was released after 17 days of treatment then.