

MC COLLEGE ARSON
Two cases
handed over
to CID

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

After failing to make any progress in investigation in three and a half months, Shahporan police have transferred two cases in connection with the Sylhet MC College hostel torching to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

The home ministry has decided that the CID should investigate the cases, Commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police AB Barua said yesterday.

A group of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men torched the century-old hostel on July 8 after a clash with Islami Chhatra Shibir activists.

In this connection, the hostel superintendent filed an arson case without naming any accused with Shahporan Police Station and a BCL man filed the other case accusing Shibir men of the torching.

Four other cases were filed by the affected students against BCL and Jubo League men with the judicial magistrate's court.



Several thousand demonstrating garment workers of Hall-Mark Group clashed with law enforcers in Savar yesterday, trapping homebound people in a three-hour traffic jam, inset, on Dhaka-Aricha Highway. The protesters were demanding arrears and eid bonus.

PHOTO: STAR

BSMMU treasurer
quits amid row

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Treasurer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Prof Moazzam Hossain resigned yesterday as some syndicate members questioned the validity of his continuing in the position under contractual appointment.

The controversy arose at Saturday's syndicate meeting when some members asked whether Prof Moazzam, who retired this June, could continue as treasurer in contradiction to the university ordinance, which says only regular teachers are eligible for appointment to the post.

Prof Moazzam became the treasurer of BSMMU on March 25, 2009. He retired as a regular teacher from the university on June 30 this year. He was continuing as treasurer, as the university administration appointed him on contract as a professor for one more year from June 30, with his first appointment letter saying he would continue in this position until further notice.

Asked whether a professor on contractual appointment could continue as treasurer as per the BSMMU ordinance, Vice Chancellor Prof Pran Gopal Datta said they had sought opinion from the health and law ministries, and both the ministries gave positive nod.

Prof Moazzam told The Daily Star that he submitted his resignation letter to the vice chancellor yesterday morning. The VC said he had forwarded the letter to BSMMU Chancellor and President Zillur Rahman.

He also said Prof Moazzam, former chairman of the Paediatric Nephrology Department and ex-president of BSMMU Teachers' Association, felt embarrassed when his matter was discussed at the syndicate meeting.

BSMMU sources said Pro-Awami League doctors' body Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad's Secretary General Prof Iqbal Arslan and Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, among others, questioned Prof Moazzam's treasurership.

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Cooking essentials' prices jump for eid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prices of various cooking ingredients have shot up in less than a month as traders kept supplies tight to make fat profit out of the increased demand ahead of Eid-ul Azha.

Pressure on consumers' wallets, however, is likely to remain less as edible oil, sugar, and chicken sell at lower prices.

The quick surge in prices of cooking ingredients, which is as much as 40 percent in the case of imported garlic, has irked buyers.

"We are aggrieved," said General Secretary of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) Humayun Kabir Bhuyia.

"Traders have increased prices of almost all the cooking ingredients needed on the occasion of Eid-ul Azha."

"How come prices of onion and spices shot up all on a sudden," he asked. "It reflects government's failure to monitor the market closely."

Over the last three-four weeks, prices of onion, garlic, ginger and aromatic spices have increased in the city markets.

Onion prices rose by 22 percent to Tk 28-38 a kilogramme at retails from Tk 22-32 early this month, according to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB).

Two wholesalers at the capital's Shyambazar blamed reduced supply of Indian onion through import for its price spike.

Price of one kilogramme of imported garlic, which was Tk 100-110 early this month, jumped to Tk 145-150 at retails, indicating a 50 percent rise.

Ginger was traded at Tk 60-90 a kg at retails in the city markets from Tk 50-80 a month ago, according to TCB.

A wholesaler at Shyambazar, Narayan Chandra Saha, however, said prices of onion, garlic and ginger slipped in the last couple of days at the wholesale market amid low turnout of buyers and increased supply.

Apart from these cooking ingredients, prices of cardamom, whole cloves and cinnamon also have leapt upward in the last one and half months.

A retailer at Wari, Shafiqur Rahman, said he sold cardamom at Tk 2,800 a kg this week, while its price was Tk 2,400 each kg a month ago.

Prices of whole cloves soared to Tk 3,200 a kg from Tk 2,600 one and a half months ago, he added.

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