

PATUAKHALI SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY

UGC forms body to probe alleged irregularities by VC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The University Grants Commission (UGC) yesterday formed a probe committee to investigate the alleged irregularities regarding appointment of a large number of staff at Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) during the tenure of immediate past vice chancellor Prof Dr Syed Shakhawat Hossain.

UGC member Prof Mohabbat Khan is the head of the three-member probe committee while two other members are Prof Abul Hashem and Ferdous Zaman Tuhin.

"We will visit the university very soon to investigate the matter," said Prof Mohabbat Khan.

Prof Shakhawat Hossain joined as vice chancellor of PSTU on December 21 in 2008 and December 20 this year

was his last working day there. But he left the campus at about 6:00pm the previous day.

During the last three working days from December 17 to 19, he gave appointment to 119 officials and employees against 14 posts mentioned in the newspaper advertisement published for the purpose, said sources at PSTU.

The 14 posts include one each of deputy registrar, assistant registrar, assistant librarian, accountant, assistant engineer (Electrical), deputy assistant engineer (Civil), senior assistant for the Office of the Registrar, senior assistant for Budget Section, and six section officers.

But the PSTU authorities gave appointment to 33 people to these posts, sources said.

Eighty-six other people including

seasonal, part time and master roll employees were also appointed during December 17-19 although there are no posts for them, they said.

Besides, a good number of teachers, officials and employees were appointed at PSTU allegedly through dubious means during the last four years.

In a meeting arranged by PSTU authorities at the university auditorium on December 18, Nikhil Chatterjee, Patuakhali correspondent of the daily Sangbad, came under attack allegedly by a group of illegal appointees when he asked a question regarding the 'mass appointment'.

The group also attacked two others journalists when they tried to save Nikhil.

A newspaper published a detailed report on the alleged irregularities recently.

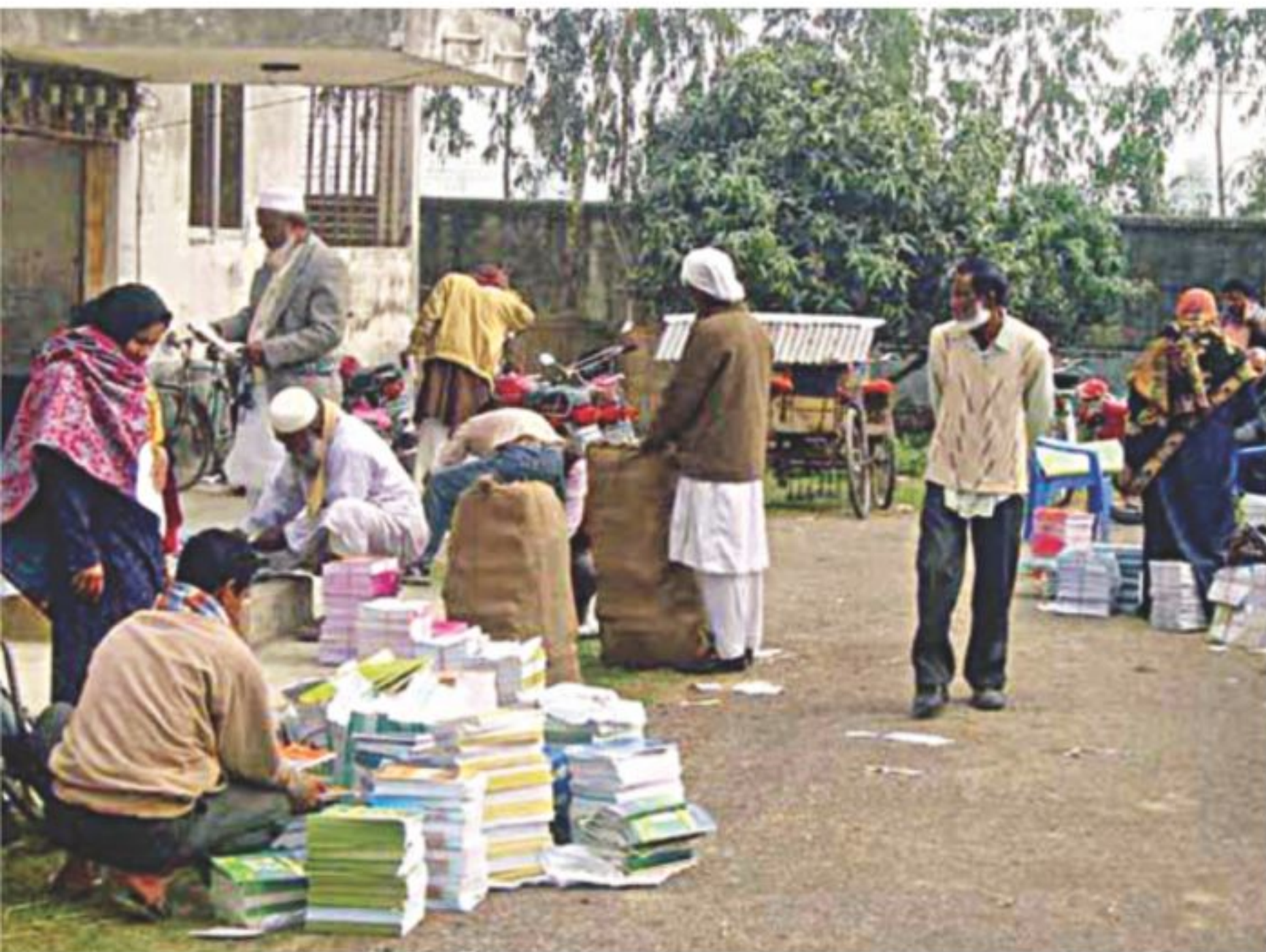


PHOTO: STAR

Headmasters of different schools collecting textbooks for the academic year 2013 from Phulchhari upazila office compound on Wednesday.

Short supply of textbooks worries Gaibandha schools

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

With only five days left for the start of distribution, the authorities of different high schools and madrasas in seven upazilas are yet to get new textbooks of the academic year 2013 as per their requirement.

The situation has become a cause of concern due to short supply of about 7.39 lakh copies of books, said sources at district secondary education office.

Teachers of the institutions are worried over getting remaining books timely as the authorities could not supply the rest of the books last year, said Abdur Rakib, headmaster of Sayedpur High School in Phulchhari upazila.

Moreover, old books can not be used in the upcoming

academic year due to major changes in the curriculum, said headmaster Shah Alam of Manikkor High School in the upazila.

In case we did not get the new textbooks timely, it would affect the students, said Alam.

According to the education office, secondary schools received 12,17,539 copies of books against the requirement of 17,82,358 copies while Dhakhil madrasa received 2,17,553 copies against 3,16,301 copies.

Besides, SSC (vocational) schools received 23,805 copies of books against their need of 32,950 copies while 2,64,146 copies reached primary madrasas against 3,21,428. However, Dhakhil (vocational) madrasas are yet to get any book in the

upazilas.

On the other hand, almost all the books were sent to primary schools in the district except for 5,509 copies at a few institutions.

District primary education officer Dilruba Begum said, 90 percent of the books have already been supplied to the headmasters of the schools.

She hoped that all the students would get books on the first day of New Year.

The government plans to distribute more than 26.17 crore copies of new textbooks among over 3.68 crore students of primary, secondary (class VI-X), ebtedai (primary level of madrasa), dakhil (secondary level of madrasa) and vocational classes of the 2013 academic session all over the country by December 30, sources said.

New IU VC appointed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Professor Abdul Hakim Sarkar of Dhaka University was yesterday appointed as new vice-chancellor of Islamic University.

Chancellor of the university President Zillur Rahman appointed Prof Hakim, a teacher of Social Welfare and Research Institute under Dhaka University, as the new vice chancellor, IU Registrar Dr Moslem Uddin confirmed it.

He said the Ministry of Education has issued a notification in this regard.

The appointment was made in a bid to remove the stalemate that began at the university three and a half months ago.

Academic activities at the university came to a halt on September 8 as the teachers of the university under the banner of Islamic University Teachers Association (IUTA) started agitation demanding removal of vice-chancellor Prof M Alauddin, pro-vice chancellor Prof M Kamal Uddin and treasurer Prof Md Shahjahan Ali for their alleged involvement in irregularities in the recruitment of 132 teachers and officials at the university on September 7.

On December 24, the general students of the university blocked Kushtia-Khulna highway demanding immediate resumption of their classes and examinations.

Around 1000 students took out a procession on the campus at around 10:00am and besieged the administrative building for half an hour.

They later put up barricades on Kushtia-Khulna highway in front of the university, disrupting traffic for two hours from 11:00am.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

A mango tree at Ganeshtala in Dinajpur town sees early budding of the popular summer fruit during the midpoint of ongoing winter season.

HUMAN CHAIN, PROCESSION IN MANIKGANJ Bring killers of little Russel to book, demand protesters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Local people formed a human chain in Singair upazila town yesterday, demanding punishment of the killers of eight-year-old Russel Ahmed.

Hundreds from all walks of life also brought out a procession, organised by Jamirta Jonokalyan Association in the morning.

The participants, including the mother of the deceased Renu Akhter, urged the authorities concerned to transfer the sensational Russel abduction and murder case to Speedy Trial Tribunal.

Russel Ahmed, class four student and son of Saudi expatriate Afzal Fakir of Darirajnar village under



Russel Ahmed

Jamirta union of the upazila, was abducted on December 15 noon when he went to a nearby shop.

Later, on information, police recovered the body from Chandahar Chawak, two kilometers away from the house of the victim on

December 18.

Officer in-charge (OC) of Singair police station Md. Liakat Ali said, they arrested the two of the accused, Rupali Akter and her mother Nurjahan Begum.

"The two have given confessional statements to police. They are now in jail custody, he said.

Earlier, the boy's grandmother Khodeza Khatun filed an abduction and murder case accusing Rupali Akter, her father Abdur Razzak and her mother Nurjahan Begum, the OC added.

According to the case, Russel's uncle Ajar Ali's wife Rupali Akter, Abdur Razzak and Nurjahan Begum, over a family feud, kidnapped Russel and dumped the body in a field after killing.



PHOTO: STAR

Mother of murdered Russel, Renu Akhter, breaks down in tears at the human chain in Singair upazila town of Manikganj yesterday as locals organised the programme demanding punishment to the killers of the 8-year-old boy.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Dense fog and bitter cold have made life of people miserable in the last few days. Sun remains invisible for almost all the day in the northern districts as they bear the brunt of the cold spell. The phot was taken in Thakurgaon yesterday.

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