

APPOINTMENT TO SCHOOL
Court summons
lawmaker
STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Sylhet

A Sunamganj court yesterday summoned eight people, including the local ruling party lawmaker Md Matiur Rahman, in a case filed for alleged irregularity in recruitment of a staff at a government primary school in Sunamganj.

Sunamganj Sadar Senior Assistant Judge Court Judge Rahamat Ali passed the order after taking cognisance of the case filed with it on Tuesday.

The complainant's lawyer Amiyangshu Chowdhury said the court will fix the date today for their appearance before it.

Moktadir Hossain, an applicant for "peon cum night guard" post, filed the case alleging that he did not get the appointment to the post at Brahmangaon Government Primary School, although he became first in the interview. He said the accused recruited Mokbul Hossain, who became second, illegally.

The other defendants include Sunamganj Sadar Upazila Parishad Chairman Dewan Zainul Zakerin, Sunamganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Tania Rahman Chowdhury, Sunamganj upazila education officer, the school Headmaster Md Habibur Rahman, its committee Chairman Md Siddiquur Rahman, Buristhal Government Primary School Headmaster Praddoth Ranjan Das and Mokbul Hossain.

Matiur told The Daily Star that he had nothing to do as the appointment committee finalised the matter.

ATTACK ON BUET STUDENT Protesters to return to classes April 20

DU CORRESPONDENT

Buet students yesterday decided to return to classes from April 20 after the home ministry accepted their demand for formation of a high-profile, the ministry-incorporated probe body over the April 9 attack on Arif Raihan Dwip.

Meanwhile, law enforcers picked up a fourth year civil engineering student, Mejbah, from Dr MA Rashid Hall in connection with the attack and confiscated some books from his room in the hall, said Directorate of Students' Welfare Director Delowar Hossain.

Chawkbazar police said they did not know of any arrest.

The home minister assured the vice-chancellor of having directed high-ranking officials to take immediate steps in this regard and that investigations had begun, said a Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) press release.

No classes and exams were held since April 13 as students, accompanied by Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders, locked up the main gate on April 9 and the new academic building on April 13 protesting the attack.

Dwip, a third year student of mechanical engineering, is undergoing treatment in Square Hospital's ICU in the capital after being hacked by an unidentified man at Nazrul Islam Hall.

FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE Bangladesh seeks more US help

UNB, Dhaka

Environment and Forests Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud has sought US support to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change and environmental problems.

"Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. So, I hope, the US government will increase its support to Bangladesh to cope the adverse impacts of climate change," he told a meeting with US Assistant Secretary for South and Middle Asia Affairs Robert O Blake in Washington on Tuesday.

Hasan Mahmud requested the US government to play a strong role in the next global climate summit to put pressure on the global leaders to come up with a legally-binding agreement to reduce carbon emission, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

Robert Blake said since Bangladesh is a vulnerable country to climate change, the US government will continue its support to the country to address the climate issue, and also strengthen its democracy.

They also discussed the ongoing political situation of Bangladesh.

Govt to help innovators in digital services

Bss, Dhaka

The government will provide financial assistance to government, private and individual initiatives for developing digital innovations on hassle-free quick service to the people.

In line with its vision to build "Digital Bangladesh", the government launched an "Innovation Fund" on March 28 last year at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to provide financial assistance to the innovators, officials of Access to Information (A2I) Programme told the news agency.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Secretary and National Project Director of A2I Md Nazrul Islam Khan said initially, Tk 1.50 crore will be provided to small initiatives of government, private organisations and individuals for the digital innovations and researches on improving quality of service delivery.

He said the amount of the fund will be enhanced in the next three years to assist such more innovators.

"We are giving emphasis on changing the existing cumbersome service delivery system introducing the digital system for ensuring people's hassle-free access to public and private services," said Nazrul.

As part of digitisation, different ministries and departments are implementing over 700 quick-win projects under the financial assistance of A2I, said Policy Adviser to A2I Programme Anir Chowdhury. He added that some quick-win projects have already been made to ensure people's access to public service.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina places a wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi in the capital yesterday marking the historic Mujibnagar Day. Members of the cabinet and leaders of the ruling Awami League were also present.

PHOTO: PID

Bangladesh's birth registration success impressive

Tanzanian deputy minister tells The Daily Star

REZAUL KARIM

Tanzania is willing to replicate the successful practices of Bangladesh in a host of public and private service projects, particularly the birth registration system.

Angellah Kairuki, deputy minister for constitutional and legal affairs of Tanzania, said, "I am highly impressed to see 90 percent achievement in birth registration in Bangladesh whereas Tanzania has recorded births of only 6.2 percent of its 44 million population."

Angellah led a 16-member delegation from April 6-10 to Bangladesh with a key mission to learn how this country has achieved such a high level of success in registering birth.

Though the delegation could not visit adequately and go on to the field due to a series of hartsal, it got highly impressed to learn about the processing of birth certificates, national identity cards, and passports and the operation of the data centre of Bangladesh Computer Council, Brac's model school, community health centre, Aarong's women-oriented programmes, fisheries and agricultural programmes, and micro financing.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Angellah said Tanzania was currently implementing the birth registration project, but it was very slow and not achieving the target. After hearing the success story of Bangladesh, the Tanzanian government sent the delegation to Bangladesh to gather knowledge and experience through spot visits, she said.

She said she was amazed to see civil servants, local government officials and graduates going from door to door and working hand-in-hand for birth registration.

The minister said she was impressed to know that computer was being used at the grassroots level for registration, and government officials were visiting villages. "The Bangladeshi people are well committed, honest and sincere, and thus the country is achieving suc-



Angellah Kairuki

cesses in most of the projects," she observed.

Angellah said her country had serious problems of early marriage, teenage pregnancy and dowry system when Bangladesh had greatly succeeded in reducing early marriage by making the birth certificate mandatory in marriage, school admission, and making passports.

"We have a lot of similarities in various sectors and our Millennium Development Goals are almost the same. So we need to collaborate to achieve the shared goals."

Angellah said she would recommend that her government seek consultancy and technical support from Bangladesh to replicate the processes of birth registration, data gathering and preparing of the national identity cards, introducing Bangladesh-style service delivery system at the Department of Immigration and Passport, set up data centres like those of Bangladesh Computer Council, found Brac-style model schools and community health centres, and introduce other programmes of Brac and leading Bangladeshi NGOs.

The Tanzanian deputy minister said she would also recommend that her government open a full-fledged diplomatic mission in Dhaka in the near future to enhance bilateral, economic, trade and cultural cooperation with Bangladesh.

She said she was impressed to see the world class products in Bangladesh like jute goods, ceramics, RMG, and pharmaceuticals. These items might have a huge market in Tanzania, she said. "We truly want to strengthen our relations with Bangladesh and import quality items from Bangladesh."

Angellah said on her return home, she would first recommend sending of a trade delegation to Bangladesh to explore trade and business opportunities.

"I can see that most of Bangladeshi products we can buy... even we can buy mustard oil, soap, cosmetics and toiletries items from Bangladesh. Quality of the products is very fine and prices are also within the buying capacity of the people of Tanzania."

She said both the countries could be immensely benefited through trade and cooperation.

বিশিষ্টাহির রাহমানির রাহিম

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