





PROTEST AGAINST JU VC

Book of graft unveiled

JU CORRESPONDENT

The protesting teachers and students of Jahangirnagar University yesterday unveiled a book detailing the allegations of corruption against the vice-chancellor.

The platform, Jahangirnagar against Graft, has been protesting since August 23 against unplanned development on the campus and corruption. It demands resignation of VC Prof Farzana Islam over graft allegation.

At a press briefing, the demonstrators launched the 224-page book, titled “unplanned development and VC’s corruption,” at New Arts and Humanities building.

Prof Farzana, who has been VC since 2014, denies any wrongdoing.

The book contains issues, including background of the protest, crisis of unplanned development, VC’s graft allegation, details of attack on protesting teachers and students, demonstrators’ manifesto, and newspaper reports and cartoons.

The protesters allege irregularities in the tender process, including manual tender instead of e-tendering and tender grabbing, and defying of the Public Procurement Rules-2008 against the VC as she included her personal secretary in the inspection committee of JU development project involving Tk 1,445 crore.

The university authorities have recently dropped the name of VC’s PS from the committee.

The demonstrators added that government procedures were not followed in the appointment of the project director.

They also alleged that the development project proposal

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With a small national flag tied to his head, Joynal, along with his fellow workers, repairs the Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar’s Aminbazar area yesterday. The repair work is underway ahead of the Victory Day when people will use the road to visit the National Memorial in Savar to pay homage to the Liberation War martyrs.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

‘Joy Bangla’ must at state programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ruled that “Joy Bangla” slogan must be used at the beginning and end of all state programmes, including Victory Day and Independence Day.

The court directed the government to ensure that this slogan is used, Deputy Attorney General Abdullah-Al-Mahmud Bashar told The Daily Star.

During hearing of a writ petition, the HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader also expressed dissatisfaction at “Bangladesh Zindabad” slogan being used, saying that such slogan had been used in Pakistan, he said.

Bashar added that the bench fixed January 14 for further hearing on the petition.

On December 4, the HC observed that “Joy Bangla” was the only slogan at home and abroad during the country’s Liberation

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Ecneec okays revised HSIA expansion plan

Cost up by Tk 7,789cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved the revised expansion plan for the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport with an additional cost of Tk 7,788.59 crore.

With it, the overall expenditure for this project has increased to Tk 21,399.06 crore from Tk 13,610.47 crore.

Of the total, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) will finance around Tk 15,000 crore, while the government will provide the rest.

The approval came in the Ecneec meeting

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BIMAN’S 787-9 DELIVERIES 10 going on ‘pleasure trip’

RASHIDUL HASAN

At least 10 people, not needed for the job, are going to Seattle to bring two new Boeing 787-9s to Dhaka spending taxpayers’ money.

Thirteen engineers, eight pilots, 12 cabin crew members, two experts from the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) are all the people required to bring the planes home, according to Biman and civil aviation ministry sources.

Talking to The Daily Star, a number of Biman officials were critical of such people going to the US to collect the Biman planes.

“Are they going on a picnic or a pleasure trip spending public money?” one of them said.

They said two officials from the finance ministry, one official each from the law and energy ministries, the chairman of the Biman Board of Directors, the CAAB chairman, personal secretary to the state minister for civil aviation, and public relations officers of the civil aviation ministry

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Cut down on foreign trips

PM instructs civil servants

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Learn from the greats, and expose yourself to better work, it is often advised. So, when implementing big, state-of-the-art projects, it is prudent to go abroad and get first-hand experience of how things are done.

Government officials, however, have made it a habit of taking foreign trips for each and every project, regardless of their scale.

It is this culture that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday

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Killer whale grandmas help calves survive

AFP, Washington

Doting killer whale grandmothers help their grand calves survive, particularly in times of food scarcity, scientists reported Monday in a paper that sheds new light on the evolutionary role of menopause.

Orca females stop reproducing in their thirties or forties but can continue to live for decades more, a phenomenon known only to exist in humans and four other mammal species, all of which are whales.

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On this day in 1971

DECEMBER 11

Lt General Niazi inspects anti-aircraft guns at Dhaka airport. He tells his troops to resist the allied force at any cost. He shows optimism that the Pakistan army would show its valour. Later, he talks to international journalists.

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A man pulls a rickshaw-van with two school students against traffic in the city's Farmgate area. Such violations of traffic rules often lead to accidents. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX Bangladesh moves up a notch

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Bangladesh climbed up a spot to 135 among 189 countries in the 2019 human development index, according to a report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

It is, however, ranked lower than Sri Lanka, India and Bhutan.

Last year, Bangladesh was ranked 136.

The steady progress was due to development, which had seen a reduction in poverty, along with gains in life expectancy, education, and

access to health care.

Bangladesh’s HDI value for 2018 is 0.614 – which put the country in the medium human development category.

Between 1990 and 2018, Bangladesh’s HDI value increased from 0.388 to 0.614, a 58.3 percent increase.

Between 1990 and 2018, Bangladesh’s life expectancy at birth increased by 14.1 years, mean years of schooling increased by 3.2 years and expected years of schooling increased by 5.6 years. Bangladesh’s GNI per

capita increased by about 198.7 percent between the same years.

“We have to address the challenges of inequalities. We have to be very strategic to address them. Why inequality could not be reduced should be addressed,” Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He also said inequality should be reduced to reap the benefits of development.

The HDI measures the average

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SYLHET-TAMABIL ROAD Work on dual carriageway to start next year

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government is going to start upgrading the Sylhet-Tamabil highway to dual carriageway late next year as Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has agreed to fund the project.

The Roads and Highways Division (RHD) has completed negotiations with the China-led AIIB and hopes that the loan issue would be settled at AIIB’s board meeting scheduled in March.

The RHD then would be able to sign a loan deal by May or June, said AK Mohammad Fazlul Karim, superintending engineer (Road Design and Safety Circle) of the RHD.

He said they had prepared a detailed design for the route in 2015, financed by Asian Development Bank.

Now, an India-Bangladesh joint-venture company is reviewing the detailed design which is

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 11

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5-15	12-45	3-45	5-19	7-00
JAMAAT 5-50	1-15	4-00	5-22	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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We’re truly proud to be part of the tremendous economic development of Bangladesh led by Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh **Sheikh Hasina**.



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