

Ex-Jamalpur DC will never be promoted

Gazette notification issued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamalpur's former deputy commissioner Ahmed Kabir, who was made an officer on special duty (OSD) days after a leaked video showed him in a compromising situation with a female colleague last year, will not get any promotion during his service.

A gazette was published in this regard yesterday.

Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration Sheikh Yusuf Harun told The Daily Star that Ahmed Kabir was punished following the incident in Jamalpur.

He will not be promoted in future and always will remain as deputy secretary, Harun said.

Ahmed Kabir, who was drawing salary in fifth grade under the 2015 national pay scale as deputy secretary, will now on get it in the last tier of the sixth grade.

He will remain in the same post and the salary will be almost half due to demotion, public administration sources said.

Ahmed Kabir was made OSD in August last year, days after a leaked video showed him in a compromising situation with a female colleague.

OSD is a post that rarely offers opportunity for work.

Two video clips from the incident went viral on Facebook. Media reports identified the man in it as the Jamalpur DC and the woman as a staffer at his office.

The room seen in the video clip was found to be inside the DC's office premises.

Speaking to journalists, Kabir at that time denied the allegations brought against him, calling it a "conspiracy".

Food security

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Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, the report says.

The price increases are attributed to stagnant production, limited imports and upsurge in domestic demand due to Covid-19.

The country's 2020 aggregated output of cereals (rice paddy, coarse grains, wheat) was stagnant at 59.8 million tonnes, registering a mere 0.7 percent increase over the previous year, slightly above the country's five-year average production of 57.4 million tonnes.

This was due to bumper Boro and Aus harvests, offsetting Aman crop losses caused by floods in July and August 2020. Bangladesh's total cereal import in 2018-19 was 7,666,000 tonnes, including 927,000 tonnes in food aid. It rose to 7,866,000 tonnes in 2019-20.

In 2020-21, Bangladesh needs a total cereal import of 9,454,000 tonnes from the international market, the report says quoting official estimates.

Conduct

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Fellowship and Special Research Grant at an event held at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital.

The PM joined the programme virtually from her official residence Gono Bhaban.

She said no nation can move forward without science education and research so "you have to continue research and the next generation will do the same following your footsteps".

Hasina said the government has diversified education with the establishment of different types of universities, BSS adds.

"We've emphasised on skilled manpower and that is why we've established 18 new public universities from 2009 to develop human resources," she added.

The government has also set up high-tech cities, hi-tech parks and software technology parks to attain economic development through skilled manpower.

The prime minister said after assuming power in 1996, they saw that there was no allocation for research and science education. "So we took initiatives to establish science and technology universities and kept separate funds for research."

Laying emphasis on research for modernisation and mechanisation of the agriculture sector and expansion of the export basket, the prime minister called on researchers to conduct more study for product diversification.

She also stressed on the necessity of making the research and development (R&D) wing of every industrial factory effective and stronger.

She said the government has been setting up 100 special economic zones across the country, where research is essential.

2 die in

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College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, the SI said.

The driver fled the scene. Prasenjit's colleague Arman said, "The van driver killed him. It was not an accident, it was murder."

Meanwhile, SI Shamimul Islam of Khilkhet Police Station said another victim, Helal, was talking to his colleague, sitting on his motorcycle near 300 feet area around 5am when a truck hit him, leaving him dead on the spot.

Hailing from Barishal, Helal was in-charge of the security company on site.

In Jashore, an UP member was killed when his motorcycle hit a tree at Manirampur upazila yesterday morning, reports our Benapole correspondent.

The deceased, Shariful Islam (62), was president of Awami League in ward-5 of Shyampur Union Parishad.

His son Abdur Rahman (28) was seriously injured in the accident, said police.

First metro

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Planning Minister MA Mannan recently said the first phase -- from Uttara to Agargaon -- of the metro rail is likely to be operational in December this year.

Asked whether they would start operation of the first phase in December, MAN Siddique on February 28 said they would be able to inform about the plan after the rail reaches Bangladesh, expected in April.

MAN Siddique, on February 4, told reporters that they might start a trial run of the first metro rail service in July, as the first train is expected to arrive in April. The trial run might continue for as long as six months, he added.

According to a monthly report, the first phase from Uttara to Agargaon, witnessed 81.42 percent progress as of February, while Agargaon to Motijheel saw 54.61 percent, and the third phase, which refers to installation of the tracks and procurement of the carriages and other equipment, witnessed 49 percent progress.

Suspended, yet

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They said that when they sought transfer as per the minister's instructions, the college authorities told them to continue their studies at Northern Private Medical, and said they will see to the matter of suspension.

Authorities did not give transfer certificates, and continued to keep students previous educational certificates.

ALLEGATIONS OF SEVERE MISMANAGEMENT

Navid Rahman, who paid Tk 10 lakh last October to get admitted at Northern Private Medical College, said, "The authorities assured me that it's a government-approved college by showing us documents. I now realise that they fooled me and my parents."

"The students have been cheated. Every month, the college makes us pay tuition of Tk 8,000," he added.

"Apparently the authorities have been enrolling students despite the suspension from health ministry. Now us students are paying the price. We came here with the dream of becoming doctors but those dreams are being crushed by the greediness of medical college authorities," said final-year student Ashrafur Islam, who enrolled in 2014-15 academic session.

There are 20 students in the college who came from Nepal. They have paid Tk 20,00,000 as admission fees.

Demonstrating students told The Daily Star that the college maintained no facilities relevant to their academic area.

The infrastructure falls short in every aspect, and there are no ICU and CCU facilities.

The medical college claims it has 500 beds, but in reality, it has less than half that number of beds. Patients do not come to the hospital as there are no specialist doctors or laboratory facilities.

Moreover, Northern Private Medical College has no affiliation with Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) and Rajshahi University, he alleged. The college

has a few lecturers but there are no doctors working as professors, said the students.

Due to these issues, district health authorities visited the hospital a year ago and ordered suspension of all activities.

Internships of around 100 students also remain pending.

STUDENTS DEMAND TRANSFER

Demanding migration to other private colleges, the students have been demonstrating in front of the college for since February 10, but to no avail.

For the past 26 days, they have been demanding migration to another private medical college free of charge. They said they will continue until the demand is met.

Students said college authorities hired goons to disrupt their demonstration, and one student was injured on Monday.

The students demanded that the college authorities unconditionally return all educational certificates and other documents that they are keeping in their custody. They also demanded punishment for those who attacked a fellow student.

Last Thursday, students handed a memorandum to Rangpur Divisional Commissioner, seeking his help.

Rangpur Divisional Commissioner Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan said he would look into the matter.

Begum Rokeya Lavelly, chairman of Northern Private Medical College in Rangpur, said a conspiracy against the college is going, and students have been agitating with outsiders' provocation.

She also said the college has updated all relevant documents but they have been facing problem getting reapproved to enroll students and provide treatment from the ministry of health.

She refused to answer further questions from this correspondent, and told him to never call her again.

However, insider sources at the college alleged mismanagement and conflict among those running the medical college.

ActionAid

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been neglected in textbooks. Even works of women writers are being removed from textbooks, she said.

She called upon all to bring social change to eradicate all uncertainties for women in educational institutions.

Gender and sexual rights activist and trans-feminist Hochemin Islam said gender diversity was nowhere to be found in the women's movement, as no special action has been taken even for transgender women.

ActionAid Bangladesh Country Director Farah Kabir said women are underrepresented in many spheres. In Decision-making positions, women are still few and far between in every sector, including, politics, business, corporate, media, health and education.

Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, and Dr Samanta Lal Sen, chief coordinator of Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, among others, spoke at the event.

VC claims

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All seven got separate letters from UGC on Wednesday, which requested their cooperation during the body's visit, providing all relevant documents centring the allegations.

Among the 45 allegations, the VC's absence at campus; corruption, anomalies and violating UGC's guidelines centring workforce recruitment; discrimination in promoting officials; unauthorised occupation of several administrative posts; and irregularities in purchases are some notable ones.

Meanwhile, a faction of BRUR teachers declared the VC

as "unwanted" at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday, protesting Prof Nazmul's remarks against UGC.

Under the banner of "Bangabandhu Parishad", it threatened to not allow the VC to be on campus until he apologises for his comments.

Mosiuur Rahman, general secretary of Bangabandhu Parishad, BRUR, mentioning a series of reported corruptions and anomalies of Prof Nazmul, questioned how a VC remains absent at campus for so long.

The VC himself, violated many rules of the university, he said.

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কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়

সংশোধিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গত ২৬/০২/২০২১ তারিখে অত্র পত্রিকায় কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়ের মনিটরিং ও রিপোর্টিং শাখা হতে ২০১৮-১৯ এবং ২০১৯-২০ অর্থ বছরের সমাপ্তকৃত মোট ৪৬টি কর্মসূচি এবং সমাপ্তকৃত মোট ৪টি প্রকল্পের নিরীক্ষা ও মূল্যায়নের জন্য প্রকাশিত দুটি আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণ প্রস্তাব আহবান (EOI) বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে EOI গ্রহণের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ১৩/০৩/২০২১ দুপুর ২.০০ ঘটিকা নির্ধারিত আছে। অনিবার্য কারণবশত: EOI গ্রহণের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ১৩/০৩/২০২১ দুপুর ২.০০ ঘটিকার পরিবর্তে ১৬/০৩/২০২১ তারিখ দুপুর ২.০০ ঘটিকা নির্ধারণ করা হলো।

(স্বাক্ষর)
০৬/০৩/২০২১

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Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) (WFP/BDCO/EOI/21/01)

For the Supply of Food Commodities

(Rice, Pulses, Fortified Vegetable Oil, High Energy Biscuits and Fortified Rice Kernel)

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) invites application from eligible suppliers/manufacturers/producers/millers for the enlistment in the WFP Bangladesh vendor roster for supply of food commodities such as Rice (White, Parboiled), Pulses (Red Lentils, Yellow Split Peas), Fortified Vegetable Oil (Refined Soybean Oil, Sunflower Oil, Palm Olein), High Energy Biscuits and Fortified Rice Kernel.

Interested suppliers are required to provide the following documents:

1. The filled in EOI Response Form, which includes:

- Table 1. WFP Requirements
- Table 2. Supplier's Information;
- Table 3. Supplier's Financial Status;
- Table 4. Supplier Relevant Experience.

The EOI Response form shall be signed by the authorised signatory on behalf of the company (supplier/manufacturer) and sealed with valid company stamp.

2. Supplier Vendor Registration Form (completed)

3. Initial Paper Assessment Form (completed)

The detailed EOI information, necessary forms, and specifications are available in WFP electronic tendering system called IN-TEND and the submissions must be through IN-TEND only.

1. The complete In-Tend User Guide is available in the following link: <https://rebrand.ly/yzdk11c>
2. Before submission on IN-TEND, you must register by clicking on the following link: <https://ungm.in-tend.co.uk/wfp/>

The project name on IN-TEND is Expression of Interest for Enlistment as Food Supplier (reference: WFP/BDCO/EOI/21/01)

Should you have any questions please contact us at ban.foodprocurement@wfp.org

The deadline for submission of EOI Document is **Thursday, March 25, 2021, 4:30 PM** (Bangladesh Time)