



Govt may let its employees trade in shares

Says draft amendment to government servants rules

BAHARAM KHAN

The public administration ministry is likely to allow government employees to trade in the share market, a reversal of a decades-old rule.

The ministry sent a draft amendment to the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules, 1979, to the law ministry, which vetted and returned it, sources said.

Upon approval from relevant authorities, government employees will be able to buy or sell primary shares or bonds of any company registered with the share market. They, however, cannot indulge in such activities during office hours, according to the draft this correspondent has seen.

Under the existing rules, government officials are not allowed to engage in trading of stocks.

The government has been trying to amend the existing Government Servants (Conduct) Rules, 1979, for six years, but could not finish the job.

Recently, the move has gained momentum. It comes at a time when some government officials' alleged corruption was reported by the media.

Although government employees are not allowed to trade in the share market, many of them are doing so, claimed sources in the ministry.

NBR official Matiur Rahman, who has recently come under the scanner amid controversy over his huge amount of wealth, has allegedly made a fortune investing in the stock market.

Sources in the Cabinet Division and the public administration ministry said Matiur's case shows how people with influence over public institutions can become a money-making machine.

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"If the government employees are allowed to buy and sell in the stock market, corruption will increase manifold."

FIROZ MIA
former bureaucrat



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

People wading through over knee-deep water on a flooded road in Salutikar area in Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila yesterday. Due to the floods caused by heavy rain, vast areas of several upazilas in the district have gone under water, while the road communication between Gowainghat, Companiganj and Sylhet Sadar upazilas have been snapped. Story on page 12.

Public universities slip into turmoil

Teachers carry on work abstention over pension, reject authorities' explanation on new scheme

STAR REPORT

Teachers, officials and staffers of public universities abstained from work for the second straight day yesterday over pension benefits, dragging on the stalemate in the activities of the higher educational institutions.

They rejected the explanation put forward by the pension authorities on the new Prottoy scheme of the universal pension system.

RETIREMENT AGE WILL BE RAISED IN 'PROTTOY' SCHEME -- PAGE 2

Finance Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali yesterday termed the teachers' indefinite strike "unreasonable".

Teachers refraining from work at 35 public universities since Monday under the banner of the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA) yesterday demanded Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina step in to solve the crisis.

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Load shedding despite lower demand

10,000MW sitting idle for fuel shortage, maintenance

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Though the electricity demand has dropped with the onset of monsoon, the Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) is struggling to supply adequate power due to a shortage of gas and other fuel supply and maintenance works.

The demand for power during the monsoon months is about 15,000 megawatts, down from 17,000MW. But PDB is straining to supply even the reduced demand despite having the generation capacity of 26,364MW.

In the last couple of days, PDB has been supplying around 13,000MW to 14,000MW of electricity, according to generation data.

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