

Jamaat leader removed from post for forging UNO's signature

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Latmonirhat

Acting principal of Hatibandha Model College and Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami's Hatibandha upazila unit in Latmonirhat, Hasen Ali, has been served a show-cause notice and removed from his party position following allegations of forging the UNO's signature on official documents.

According to the upazila administration, Hasen allegedly submitted 13 recruitment files to the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education using a scanned copy of UNO Shamim Mia's signature.

"This is outright fraud and forgery. A show-cause notice has been served on Thursday, and an investigation is underway," UNO Shamim Mia told reporters, adding that the forgery came to light after the directorate flagged the documents.

In response to the allegations, Jamaat-e-Islami relieved Hasen of his duties as aameer of Hatibandha upazila, said district Jamaat Ameer Abu Taher.

3 BNP men among 5 held for extortion

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Tangail

Police have arrested five people, including three local BNP leaders, in Tangail in an extortion case.

They were held in the town's Santosh between Friday night and yesterday, said Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Tanvir Ahmed.

Abdullah Al Mamun, 26, Sabir Hossain, 20, Shah Alam, 50, Jubair Hossain, 52, and Golam Rabbani, 52, were produced before a Tangail court after the victim sued them yesterday morning, the OC added.

Of the arrestees, Rabbani is president of ward-8 unit of Tangail town BNP, Shah Alam, its general secretary,

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Straw being transported from various villages in the Atrai upazila of Naogaon by a boat to Pabna. During floods, Pabna faces a severe shortage of straw, which is vital for feeding cattle. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Clogged sewers add to waterlogging woes in Pirojpur

KM HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

Residents of Pirojpur town are suffering immensely due to the lack of adequate drainage facilities. The problem becomes particularly acute during the rainy season, when even moderate rainfall leaves roads waterlogged and impassable.

Although there are some drains within the municipality, which spans around 30 square kilometres, they are not spacious enough and are poorly maintained, often becoming blocked, according to locals.

Jakir Hossain, a resident, said there is no way to move along the Choumuhuni to Balaka Club Road, as there is no drainage system in place and the road remains flooded after rainfall. "Even when the rain stops, the water does not recede immediately," he said.

The situation is similar in other areas including Ukilpara, Moddy Rasta, Sheikhpura, Post Office Road and Muslimpara.

"Though our municipality is around 150 years old, its facilities are in a dire state," said Syed Moin, another resident, adding that other civic amenities, including proper road communication, are also lacking.



Locals Mainul Ahsan Munna and Khalid Abu echoed the concerns.

Contacted, Dhruba Lal Datta, executive engineer of Pirojpur municipality, said there are around 150 kilometres of both concrete and earthen drains in the area. However, the municipality lacks sufficient income to construct more drains and roads. "We have to spend all our earnings on staff salaries," he said.

He said a proposal has been submitted to the Local Government Engineering Department seeking funds from the Local Government Covid-19 Response and Recovery Project. "If the proposal is approved, we will be able to carry out some development work in the municipality," he said.

"As Pirojpur municipality is in a very poor condition, it needs a special project for its development," he added, suggesting the government could provide support through the Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement Project.

Tongi's drains of death

Despite fatalities, authorities yet to take action, allege locals

MONJURUL HAQUE, Gazipur

Open and unguarded drains across Tongi in Gazipur have turned into deadly traps, posing a constant threat to pedestrians, garment workers, schoolchildren, the elderly, and motorcyclists alike.

Despite repeated accidents, including a recent fatality, no effective steps have been taken by the authorities.

On July 30, firefighters recovered the body of Faria Tasnim Jyoti, who had fallen into an open drain in Tongi. Her lifeless body was found beneath a dense pile of water hyacinth in the Shalikchura Beel, into which the drain flows.

A visit on the four kilometre area from Board Bazar to Tongi's Hossain Market on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway revealed at least 25 drains and manholes without covers.

In some places, thin bamboo sticks or pieces of red cloth serve as makeshift warnings. During rain, when the manholes are submerged, pedestrians unknowingly walk into danger. These roads are daily routes for thousands, said locals.

Abul Hossain, a garment worker, said, "These open manholes become even more dangerous when there's no light."



Near Gazipur Crescent Hospital, two manholes sit wide open.

Ismail Hossain, another worker, said, "Just days ago, someone fell in right here. Bystanders pulled him out."

Amir Hossain, a rickshaw puller from Gacha, added, "I've seen manhole covers being stolen in broad daylight. No one stops them. The covers are later sold off as scrap metal."

In Kunia-Targachh, resident Iman Ali pointed to five open manholes in his area alone. "With this much traffic, anyone could fall in at any moment."

Asked, Gazipur City Corporation Secretary Al Amin Parvez said, "We cannot avoid responsibility. We're listing all open drains and manholes across the city and have been instructed to seal them. The work has already begun."

Public universities still trapped in authoritarian

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party. Dissenting voices, he said, are still discouraged or silenced.

He expressed concern over rise of far-right extremism and growing anti-minority sentiment, both of which are creeping into university spaces. State's inaction, he said, is being seen as a silent approval.

Speaking on private universities, Oliur Sun said these institutions still operate primarily as profit-driven businesses. Despite

the UGC's regulatory authority under the 2010 Private University Act, no meaningful protection has been provided for institutional autonomy.

Tahmina Khanam said the UGC continues to function like an extension of the education ministry, relying heavily on bureaucratic approvals for its operations and funding.

Education Adviser Chowdhury Rafiqul Abrar said under the banner of autonomy, many teachers

have become deeply involved in partisan politics, which has severely damaged the academic environment.

He said such a system cannot be dismantled overnight. "It requires internal reform, and for that, universities must raise demands and engage their stakeholders."

On VC appointments, he said while previous governments made unilateral decisions, a search committee now exists -- comprising a UGC

representative, a subject expert, and a VC.

Reflecting on the past year, Abrar said he did not hold responsibility for the entire period but understood the pressure under which the administration operated.

"Not all decisions were good," he said. "Perhaps the state did not play the role it was expected to."

"Relying solely on an education commission for solutions is not realistic," UGC Member Prof Tanzimuddin Khan said the current UGC structure lacks internal accountability. He pointed out that appointments are

often political. "Our focus should be on reforming the state structure," he added.

Chairing the event, economist Prof Anu Mohammad said whichever party came to power, it used 1973 university ordinance to its advantage, corrupting university system.

"But we cannot blame everything on the ordinance. It ultimately depends on the state and how it wants to shape the universities. Why an education reform commission has not yet been formed, and why education has not been given importance, remain major questions."

Govt finally begins

FROM PAGE 3

commission recently told this correspondent: "The entire focus of the reform process has been on the constitution and the election system. What was the necessity of forming other commissions like ours?"

Against this backdrop, an official of the Health Services Division said, "The first meeting on the reform commission's report will be held on August 6, where a plan for its implementation will be devised."

In a letter sent to the heads of all its agencies on July 29, the division said it is necessary to review the reform commission report, critically analyse it, and examine the activities of each respective wing, department, or organisation to prepare short-term and long-term action plans.

"At the initial stage, a short-term (three-month) action plan should be formulated, and steps will be addressed later.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার	
স্বাস্থ্য মন্ত্রণালয়	
বাংলাদেশ কোষ্ট গার্ড	
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
১। মুক্তাগাছ/বিহার	মুক্তাগাছ কেসট গার্ড
২। সম্মুখ	মুক্তাগাছে কেসট গার্ড
৩। দরপত্র আকাশকে	আকাশ কেসট গার্ড
৪। দরপত্র আকাশকের জেলা	জেলা প্রিসিসি সিস্টেম ও আনুষঙ্গিক যন্ত্রণা
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৮। কাট তারিখ	বাংলাদেশ সরকার
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