

HC rebukes two DU teachers

Says 'two-paisa major' can't be compared to Mujib

Staff Correspondent

THE High Court on Tuesday rebuked two Dhaka University professors for claiming in two textbooks that former president Ziaur Rahman had declared the republic's independence on March 26, 1971.

The bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury and Justice Jahangir Hossain also termed 'traitors' the two professors of the political science department, M Ferdous Hossain and Dil Rausan Jinnat Ara Naznin, for the claims in the civics book for the SSC

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programme which was printed in 2004.

The professors explained that the book was written jointly by four authors and that they [Ferdous and Dil Rausan] were not responsible for the chapters which contained the distortions.

The court told them that they could not avoid the responsibility for the distortion of history as the book was published after their names.

To the court's question, professor Ferdous Hossain, however, admitted that he had replaced the name of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with that of Ziaur Rahman in the textbook document at the request of the Bangladesh Open University.

Ziaur Rahman, a major worth "two paisas", cannot be compared to Bangabandhu, the court said.

The court also wondered how a person, who distorted

the history of the liberation war, could remain a teacher at the top university.

'We will not take the matter lightly,' the court said.

The court adjourned the hearing till May 14.

On May 26, 2010, the same court issued a rule on the persons concerned to explain why they should not be prosecuted for treason and other offence under the penal code on charge of distorting the universally

recognised and endorsed history that the country was liberated under the leadership of its founding president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman after a successful war of liberation from the Pakistani occupation.

The court had issued the rule, after hearing a writ petition filed by two Supreme Court lawyers, Altaf Uddin Ahmed and Mahmud Hossain, challenging the legality of publishing the books.