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Renaming of DU SM Hall challenged

Renaming the historic Salimullah Muslim Hall of Dhaka University axing 'Muslim' shortly after the independence was challenged in the High Court on Monday, reports UNB.

Raquibuddin Ahmed, a resident student of the hall in mid 60s, filed a writ on which the High Court issued rule upon the VC and Registrar of DU to show cause why the resolution of its syndicate on June 17, 1972 renaming the hall should not be declared illegal.

Record shows the hall was initially named as Mohammadan Hall when the university started functioning in 1921. It was changed as Salimullah Muslim Hall in 1928 after the name of the Nawab of Dhaka in recognition of his invaluable contribution to the establishment of Dhaka University and the Muslim education as a whole.

The petitioner submitted that the syndicate of the University has no authority to change the name of the residential halls that has been laid down in Statutes, under the Dhaka University Act of 1920.

His counsel argued that the impugned syndicate resolution deleted the word "Muslim" without its jurisdiction. The University Ordinance did not empower the syndicate to change the name of any hall, he contended.

The bench comprising Justice M A Aziz and Justice Nazrul Islam Chowdhury issued the rule. It also issued rule to show cause why the respondents should not be directed to restore the name of the hall as Salimullah Muslim Hall.