

BOU VC among 8 granted bail

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A DHAKA court on Thursday granted bail to eight people, including vice-chancellor of Bangladesh Open University professor RIM Aminur Rashid, in a case filed for allegedly misrepresenting history in two BOU textbooks.

Judge Kamrunnahar Rumi of Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court granted them bail on their plea after surrendering to the court.

The seven others are former acting VCs M Farid Ahmed and Ruhul Amin Akand, director of printing and publication department Fazole Ali, chairman of BBA programme of Bangladesh Islamic University Arshad Ali Matubbar, professor Mohammad Abdur Rahim of Islamic Studies Department of BOU, former lecturer of BOU and present lecturer of International Relations Department of Chittagong University Mohammad Kamal Uddin and lecturer of Islamic Studies Department of BOU Mohammad Kutub Uddin.

Two other accused in the case — former BOU VC Ershadul Bari and retired professor Mohammad Ansaruzzaman — have already secured bail from the High Court.

Dhaka University pro vice-chancellor Harun-or-Rashid on March 4 filed the case against BOU VC

and nine others alleging their involvement in distorting history of the country's liberation war in the BOU textbooks.

In the case statement, the plaintiff said he and chairmah of DU's Political Science Department Shawkat Ara Hossain wrote the Sociology 2nd paper and Civics 2nd paper of HSC under BOU which were published in 2000.

Later, The accused did not seek permission from the authors and deleted the name of Bangabandhu from the main copy and other reference points of the liberation war. The textbooks were reprinted it in 2002, 2005 and 2009.

The plaintiff told the court that the reprinted textbooks described late president Ziaur Rahman as the one who had declared the country's independence, although the High Court in a verdict in 2009 ruled that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had declared the independence on March 26, 1971.

The High Court on March 1 summoned six people, including professor Harun-or-Rashid, on charge of distorting history of the country's liberation war.

Later, professor Harun-or-Rashid filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court upon High Court directives.