

## HC asks IGP to ensure Ershadul Bari's presence on April 10

Staff Correspondent

THE High Court on Monday summoned former Bangladesh Open University vice-chancellor Ershadul Bari to personally explain to it on April 10 why he should be prosecuted for contempt of court.

For flouting its order.

The court directed the inspector general of police and the Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner to ensure the appearance of the former vice chancellor.

A bench of Justice AHM  
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Shamsuddin Chowdhury and Justice Jahangir Hossain gave the order to the police as the former vice chancellor failed to appear before it on Monday as it had asked him on March 5.

On March 5, the court asked the former vice chancellor to appear before it on Monday to explain his role in the publication of two BOU textbooks in June 2009 which mentioned that Ziaur Rahman had proclaimed independence of Bangladesh in 1971.

The charge is distortion of liberation war history in two HSC textbooks — Civics (2nd paper) and Sociology (2nd paper) published in June 2009.

During the hearing set for Monday, the court said that the man who tried to wipe out 'Joy Bangla' slogan after the assassination of Bangabandhu on August 15, 1975,

cannot be a freedom fighter no matter whatever else he might have done in 1971.

Former Bangladesh Bank governor M Farashuddin Ahmed, who had headed a three-member committee to probe into the allegation of distortion of history in the two books, appeared before the court as asked.

He told the court that on August 16, 2010, the probe committee recommended punishment of nine former deans of the Open University Alimur Rahman, Ansaruzzaman Miah, and Kazi Mohammad Galib Ahsan, Islamic studies teachers M Kutub Uddin, Abdur Rahim, ABM Khairul Islam and Kamal Uddin and Abdul Karim, and course co-ordinator Mosamat Naznin Jahan for distortion of history.

Farashuddin said the committee found no responsibility

of Dhaka University political science professors Harun-or-Rashid and Shawkat Ara Hossain, the writers of the Civics book, in distorting history, as the distortion was made in the new editions of the books, reprinted by the BOU authorities without their approval.

In the report of the probe body, one of its members, Open University treasurer Santi Narayan Ghosh, however, had observed that Galib Ahsan should not be recommended for punishment, as he was an acting dean, Farashuddin mentioned.

Additional attorney general MK Rahman, representing BOU authorities, submitted that the report of the probe committee was not comprehensive as it took into consideration only what happened between 2007 and 2009.

He submitted that Far-

ashuddin committee kept the period between 2001 and 2006 outside the purview of the probe, when the country had a government of another political ideology.

Dhaka University political science professors Hasanuzzaman Chowdhury, M Ferdous Hossain and Dil Raushan Zinnath Ara Naznin, along with 26 Open University other respondents appeared before the court.

Their lawyer Ruhul Qudus Kajol argued that the proceedings in the sedition case filed with the Jaydevpur police for the distortion should be stayed, as different individuals made conflicting statements about the matter before the court.

The court said that the home ministry would look into the issue, as the case had already been sent to it for its approval.