

Confrontational politics worries EU envoys

Political stability major condition for continued aid, they iterate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Diplomats of the European Union countries have expressed concern over the confrontational politics in Bangladesh, saying political stability is the major condition for continued development assistance to the country.

"Democracy also means listening to opponents and doing reasonable compromises," President of the EU missions in Dhaka Anders Johnson told the Meet-the-Reporters programme of the

Dhaka Reporters Unity at its office in the city yesterday.

Terming the upcoming general election very crucial for Bangladesh, he said they wanted to see a free, fair and peaceful election with enhanced participation.

The European Union (EU) is closely watching political developments in Bangladesh and will monitor the upcoming polls," said Johnson, also the Swedish ambassador.

He said the EU was worried about the current political con-

frontation and acts of violence including assaults on journalists, and asked the political parties to show restraint. "The whole country is suffering due to acts of violence, which are also affecting the development works. Development aids depend on the country's image."

Referring to the recent meeting between an EU delegation and the chief election commissioner, Johnson told reporters that they discussed proper observance of the coming general election.

Envoy of Britain, Germany, France, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands and head of the delegation of the European Commission also attended the programme, held on the day before the Europe Day.

DRU President M Anwarul Haq moderated the programme while its General Secretary Motahar Hossain Masum delivered the welcome speech.

Ambassador of the Netherlands J L Ijzerman also echoed the sentiment of his Swedish colleague. "Yes, we would like to see

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the polls held in a free, fair and peaceful manner. We'll follow the coming vote very closely because we want to contribute to the holding of a fair election."

The Dutch envoy appreciated the government move to grant autonomy to the state-run radio and TV but was worried at the rising acts of assault on journalists.

French Ambassador Michel Lunnaux viewed that the journalists had a very important role to

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Dengue strikes back but govt yet to wake up

STAR REPORT

Platelet separators are used to separate platelets from blood for treatment of dengue patients.

The

machines have been allotted to Shishu Hospital, Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where most dengue patients were treated last year. There is only one platelet separator at Red Crescent Blood Centre at Mohammadpur.

The Health Department did not publish the much-talked-about "National Guideline for Dengue Management", a brochure

for the physicians who treat dengue.

The source said the directorate of Disease Control was assigned to publish the brochure in Bangla last year, but the department did not pay heed to it.

Four patients were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Shishu Hospital. Of them, one was released from the Shishu Hospital while the condition of another patient has improved and would be released soon.

The condition of patients at DMCH is gradually improving and they would be released soon, the on-duty doctors said.

The onset of the disease is a little earlier this year due to arrival of rain, Kanakranjan Talukdar, director of Disease Control told The Daily Star.

He said, "We apprehend that the dengue would continue in the country this year as there is no way to curb it."

Talukdar said prevention is the only way, as no specific antibiotic for the treatment of the disease has been found.

The maintaining of fluid should be the focal point of treatment, he added. Some patients died last year due to the ignorance of physicians.

"Doctors, patients and guardians have to be cautious but need not to panic," Talukdar said.

He also said, "Although we are yet to receive information on dengue fever, we are corresponding with different district offices for information."

Aedes mosquitoes lay eggs in the clean stagnant water. However, the incessant rain may wash away the mosquito larvae.

As many as 93 patients most of whom are children died of dengue

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A diagnosis of diagnostic centres in city Fees vary with 'commission' for doctors

NAIMUL HAQ

up for the 'commission' paid to doctors.

Management of certain diagnostic centres admitted that they survive this way while others said that the rates have been fixed so that they do not have to compromise with quality.

A Daily Star investigation revealed that despite using almost identical reagents, methods, ap-

paratus, and equipment in the tests, the fee charged by different diagnostic centres vary significantly.

For instance, acid phosphates, a biochemical test, would cost Tk 300 at Samorita Hospital, Tk 150 at Central Hospital, Tk 200 at BIRDEM and Tk 100 at Gonoshasthaya Kendra Nogor Hospital (GKNH). Lipid profile, another biochemical test, would cost Tk 650 at Samorita, Tk 600 at Central Hospital, Tk 520 at BIRDEM and Tk 170 at GKNH.

Cholesterol test at Samorita or Lab Aid would cost Tk 140, at Central Hospital Tk 150, at BIRDEM Tk 100 and at GKNH Tk 80.

The fee for blood for culture and sensitivity (C/S), a biochemical test, at Samorita is Tk 500, at Central Hospital Tk 450, at BIRDEM Tk 300 and at GKNH 200.

Throat swab C/S test would cost Tk 250 at Lab Aid or Samorita, Tk 250 at Central, Tk 250 at BIRDEM and Tk 100 at GKNH.

Radiological test fees also vary

from one diagnostic centre to another although the imaging machines and films they use are basically the same.

At Samorita, single X-ray exposure of chest or shoulder or spine or wrist or skull or hip or elbow or any other bones and joints would cost Tk 120. Charges for both views would be double. But the average cost of X-ray elsewhere is not more than Tk 80.

More sophisticated imaging like barium meal stomach or duodenum costs Tk 600 at Samorita, Tk 575 at Central, Tk 400 at BIRDEM and Tk 375 at GKNH.

Barium meal follow-through costs Tk 750 at Samorita, Tk 1,025 at Central Hospital, Tk 500* at BIRDEM. Barium enema of colon costs Tk 900 at Samorita, Tk 825 at Central, Tk 500 at BIRDEM and Tk 475 at GKNH.

At Samorita, charges for CT scan for brain costs Tk 3,200, CT scan for neck or cervical spine is Tk 4,500, CT scan of chest Tk 4,500, whole abdomen Tk 9,000.

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Autonomy for Betar, BTV Govt move seen as bid to 'bluff' people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The latest government move to give autonomy to the state-run electronic media came under fire from political circles for some 'controversial' provisions in the draft laws that cabinet gave approval on Monday last.

Instead of giving autonomy to Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television, the government was trying to further consolidate its control over these, they said.

Barrister Nazmul Huda, a former information minister of the country, bitterly criticised the government for 'bluffing the people', in the name of granting autonomy to the state-run electronic media.

"Autonomy means self rule. If government continues to enjoy the hiring and firing authority, then what sort of autonomy would it be?" Huda told The Daily Star yesterday.

Huda, a vice chairman of the main opposition BNP, termed the provisions that empower the government to appoint chairmen and members for two authorities, one for radio and the other for television, a departure from the autonomy commission's recommenda-

tion that President of the country would be the appointing authority.

When asked why the BNP government took no steps in this regard, the former information minister said, "We intended to give autonomy to the state-run media but time ran out before we could complete the process."

He claimed that the two media - Betar and BTV - had been politicised during the previous regimes of Awami League and Jatiya Party. "I tried hard during my stint as information minister to neutralise the institutions first and time ran out before I could give autonomy to them,"

Left Democratic Front leader Rashed Khan Menon dubbed the government's move as pre-poll bluff as the draft laws vested all control to the government.

"Instead of formation of a National Broadcasting Commission as recommended by the autonomy commission, the government is now forming two separate authorities and government itself would appoint members of these bodies. Indeed Awami League is fooling the people," said Menon, also the general secretary of Work-

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A doctor attends a seven-year-old dengue patient at the Shishu Hospital yesterday.

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power outage since the storm.

The coastal areas also experienced high winds and heavy rains yesterday. Northwestern Rangpur and Dinajpur region aside, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Sirajganj, Sylhet, Barguna, Patuakhali and Pirojpur during the last 24 hours ending 6.00 p.m. yesterday.

Four persons were killed in Tangail upazila of Rajshahi, two in Sadar and Betagi upazilas of Barguna and the other in Manda upazila of Naogaon district.

The storms also caused damage to homesteads, crops and educational institutions, uprooted trees and snapped power lines.

The victims were identified as Idris Ali, 42, of Bhaluka Kandi, Dulal, 42, of Amritpur, Sonatan, 20, of Komla Hatpara, Anwar Hosain, 25, of Dhadum village in Tanore, Abdul Khaque, 45, of Sadar and Siraj, 5, of Betagi upazilas, and Rezaul Karim, 25, of Manda.

Sources said at least 15 people were injured when a mud-wall of Mohammadpur Memorial College in Tanore collapsed on the same day.

Another storm coupled with heavy rain on Monday also flattened homes and educational institutions in three upazilas of Pirojpur, which has suffered

muggers who were fleeing after blasting crackers.

In another incident, Lalbagh police recovered the body of an unidentified young man from Hossain Uddin Lane in the city the same day. He was stabbed to death.

The body of another unidentified woman, 17, was recovered from a mess in Rupnagar Residential Area on May 4. The victim was working as a maid at the mess. Police suspected that she might have been strangled to death and later hung from the ceiling.

The body of Mohammad Zakir Hossain, 27, son of Samsul Haq of Dakkhil Khan from Balumati, Merajdhikar in Khilgaon area. Zakir was a 'dollar-trader' and had family sources said.

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corded 52 mm rainfall until 6 p.m. since morning.

Met Office forecast more rain and storms today and also tomorrow. The weather may gradually start improving from tomorrow, it added.

In Dhaka city, the drainage system already burdened with Monday's rains spilled the sewage onto the streets.

The rain disrupted the city life, and motorists found it difficult to move fast on the flooded streets.

The pedestrians during the morning rush hours had to depend on the whims of the operators of a limited number of cycle rickshaws and auto-rickshaws who ignored the rough weather. A number of vehicles broke down.

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দাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, দাকা

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন



Source: Islamic Foundation

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের কর আদায় সংক্রান্ত জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, বকেয়া কর আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে খেলাপি করদাতাগণকে পুনঃ অনুরোধ ও নেটোশি দেওয়ার পরও অনেকেই এখনো কর পরিশোধ করেন নাই। বকেয়া কর আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে ইতিমধুে ক্রোক নেটোশি জারী করা হইয়াছে। ক্রোক নেটোশি প্রাপ্ত খেলাপি করদাতাগণকে নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে বকেয়া কর পরিশোধ করিতে অনুরোধ করা হইল। অন্যথায় নির্ধারিত সময়ের পর ক্রোক কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার মাধ্যমে বকেয়া কর আদায়ের বাবস্থা এহণ করা হইবে।

সিটি করপোরেশনের এলাকায় বিদ্যমান দোকান/ব্যবসা প্রতিষ্ঠান এর মালিকগণকে ৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে নিজ দোকান/ব্যবসা প্রতিষ্ঠানের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স হ্রাস/নবায়নের জন্য চূড়ান্তভাবে অনুরোধ করা হইল। অন্যথায় মডেল ট্যাক্স সিডিউলের ৪৩ ধারা লংগ্যন করিয়ে ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ছাড়া ব্যবসা করার জন্য তাহাদের বিরুদ্ধে মোবাইলকোর্টের মাধ্যমে ব্যবস্থা এহণ করা হইবে।

উল্লেখ্য যে, বাড়িগুরের কর, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স নবায়ন/হ্রাস ও দোকান ভাড়া পরিশোধের সুবিধার্থে কর অধ্যন-১ হইতে ১০ পর্যন্ত সকল অঞ্চলের কর কর্মকর্তার দণ্ডের ও বাজার শাখার কর কর্মকর্তার দণ্ডের নগরভবনস্থিত রাজস্ব বিভাগের সকল শাখা সাংগৃহিক ছুটির দিন উক্তব্যার সকল ৯-০০ ঘটিকা হইতে বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা ও শনিবার সকল ৯-০০ ঘটিকা হইতে বেলা ২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত খোলা থাকিবে।

ডিসিস/পিআরডি/৮৯০/০০-০১

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