

CPA takes steps to implement ISPS code by July 1

NURUL ALAM

The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has taken several steps aiming at implementation of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) code by July 1 as per a directive from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

Earlier in January last, the IMO instructed its member countries to ensure compliance with the code by the end of June this year or run the risk of

also calls for an increase in the number of security guards, port officials added.

They said the authorities have recently invited tenders for installing automatic identification system for vessels.

Besides enhanced security inside the port, ISPS code stresses special surveillance at the outer anchorage, a senior port official said.

Against the backdrop of the terrorist attacks on the twin towers of New York, USA on 9/11, 2001, the IMO decided to

security system for the premier port of the country.

Nepal Chandra Sarkar, joint secretary of the shipping ministry, was tasked with monitoring the entire process, port sources said.

"We have already initiated the assessment of the facilities. We will soon prepare a Port Facility Security Plan (PFSP) for the implementation of the ISPS code," said Kamrul.

"Right now, we are trying to detect the lacks and lapses in the prevailing facilities of the port. Basing on the assessment, we'll go for appropriate measures to ensure safety for vessels and port installations and thus heighten the preparedness of the port to face terrorist acts," Kamrul added.

Earlier in January, the International Maritime Organisation instructed its member countries to ensure compliance with the ISPS code by the end of June this year or run the risk of international ships avoiding their ports

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A meeting held at the Ministry of Port and Shipping in the first week of this month took the decision in regard to the steps towards ISPS code, port officials said.

Implementation of the ISPS code at Chittagong port requires installation of various security systems that feature automatic identification for the vessels calling at the port, scan of import and export cargo, closed circuit TV camera and so on. It

seek implementation of the ISPS code in the ports of its member countries across the globe to combat global terrorism.

A committee with the Deputy Conservator of Chittagong port Kamrul Hossain as its convenor, was formed. An expert team headed by the Principal Officer (PO) of Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) Shafiq Ullah was assigned to provide necessary expertise and other support for formulating a plan of action to devise a comprehensive



TALE OF A WIDOW

Saera Begum, a poor housewife of a remote village of Noakhali district, came to the city along with her husband to try their luck some ten years back. But their dream of a better life was shattered when her husband met a tragic end in a road mishap few years back. Without giving in to her fate, Saera alone began her journey of hope and survival. Now a fruit vendor, she sells various seasonal fruits such as jackfruit and pineapples, which she brings from hill districts of Rangamati, Khargachhari or Bandarban.

Shibir, JCD dominate in appointment of CU teachers

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN RIAD

Chittagong University (CU) authorities have appointed 90 teachers violating rules and regulations during the last two years of ruling BNP-Jamaat-backed administration, sources said.

Of them, around 50 were appointed in defiance of the planning committee recommendation.

Moreover, syndicate at its meeting on May 10 appointed a private university student as lecturer in Computer Science department. The new appointee completed his graduation and post graduation from International Islamic University Chittagong (IIUC) located at a small building at Chawkbazar area in the port city. The university is run by Jamaat-e-Islami, sources said.

Meanwhile, leaders of Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA) called on Vice Chancellor Professor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury at his

office on Monday (May 24) to protest appointment of a private university student as teacher in Computer Science Department.

The CUTA leaders urged the VC not to repeat it in future to keep dignity of the university.

"It is very disgrace to us that a private university student has been appointed a teacher of public university, Chittagong University Teachers' Association General Secretary Professor Gazi Saleh Uddin said. This appointment is first of its kind in the history of 15 public universities in Bangladesh, he added."

Although, there were a number of candidates from Dhaka University and Shahjalal University with four first class with position in merit list of SSC and HSC examinations.

But the university authorities reportedly on direction from the Jamaat high command chose the IIUC student as he was a Shibir activist during his student life.

CUTA is likely to launch a movement protesting the appointment after its next execu-

tion committee meeting, Prof Gazi Saleh said.

On the other hand, the authorities appointed a lecturer in political science department three months back though he had no first class in honours and masters degree. The new appointee is reportedly a Shibir cadre and an accused in Faruk killing case. Faruk was killed allegedly by the Shibir cadres on campus in 1990. Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) even had launched a movement demanding cancellation of his appointment as several qualified candidates with first class were there.

Of the total 90 appointees, 65 belong to Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) and 20 are backed by JCD, said a pro-BNP teacher on condition of anonymity.

Additional teachers had been appointed in several departments ignoring advertisement for vacant posts.

Department of Statistics in an advertisement invited applications for two lecturers recently. But the department appointed four persons defying the plan-

ning committee decision. Of them, two were Shibir leaders during their student life.

Department of Geography appointed lecturers against the vacant posts of a professor and an associate professor.

Department of Zoology picked up three candidates, including two Islami Chhatra Sangstha leaders, against two lecturer posts.

Former CU Shibir president was appointed lecturer in Finance department.

Besides, two were appointed in Microbiology Department against one post, three in Public Administration against one post and three in Economics against one post defying the planning committee recommendation.

However, the authorities even after interview reportedly did not appoint three lecturers in Mathematics Department as there were no suitable candidates from Shibir or JCD, sources said. Though there were two candidates with M Phil degree with first class in both honours and master degree, the

authorities dropped their names for not being the fellows of Shibir or JCD.

The Department of Anthropology appointed four lecturers on May 22 against the post of three that mentioned in the advertisement.

When contacted selection board member and chairman of the department Professor Dr. Ahmed Fazole Hasan Chowdhury said, "It has been done due to shortage of teachers." One of the appointees has been regularised while the three others are fresh.

Some pro-BNP senior teachers said that Vice Chancellor and the selection board are responsible for such appointments.

When contacted Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Dr M Shamsuddin said that he did not know anything regarding appointment of teachers. "Vice Chancellor is responsible for the appointments," he added.

Vice Chancellor Professor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury while talking to The Daily Star refused to make any comment in this regard.

theweekthatwas



Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan inaugurates the library of Chattagram Samity-Dhaka at Topkhana Road in the capital on May 23. Later, he distributed scholarships among the

Attack on British HC condemned

Chittagong Social Development Forum (CSDF) in a statement here on Monday condemned the bomb attack on British High Commissioner in Bangladesh Anwar Chowdhury at the Shrine of Hazrat Shahajalal (R) on May 21.

CSDF is an NGO working for gender equity and human rights in greater Chittagong.

CSDF Chairman M Nazer Hossain in a statement said the attack on the Bangladeshi-born British envoy lowered dignity and image of the people as well as the country to the rest of the world.

CSDF demanded exemplary punishment to the criminals involved in the attack after proper investigation.

CIDA aid sought

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will provide assistance to Chittagong chamber to set up small and cottage industries in Chittagong and impart training to this end.

Razani Alexander, First Secretary (Development) of Canadian High Commission in Bangladesh, said this at a meeting with Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) President Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury here on Saturday.

She said, CIDA would think of appointing expert trainers for creating skill manpower in IT sector in Chittagong.

She said that a group of Canadian consultants would arrive Bangladesh next month for a feasibility study on the development of private sector

here.

Chittagong chamber president sought assistance from CIDA for the potential IT sector in the country.

Tribute paid to Nabi

The speakers at a condolence meeting here on Monday paid rich tribute to renowned journalist as well as litterateur and transcriber Akhter Un Nabi.

Nabi passed away at Tata Memorial Hospital at Mumbai in India on May 19.

Chittagong Press Club and Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) jointly organised the meeting.

The speakers recalled his contribution in journalism and literature.

Speaking at the meeting as the chief guest Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury said that Nabi was always true to his words and outspoken.

Chittagong Press Club President Abu Sufian presided. Chittagong Sangbadpatri Parishad President and the Azadi Editor MA Malek, Alhaj ABM Abul Kashem, Prothom Alo resident editor in Chittagong Abul Momen, CUJ President Mostaq Ahmad, and Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Chittagong General Secretary Dr. Khurshid Jamil Chowdhury also spoke.

Dhaka Bank Islamic banking branch opens

The second Islamic banking branch of Dhaka Bank opened here on Saturday.

Minister for Housing and Public Works Mirza Abbas inaugurated the

branch at Sadharan Bima Sadan at Agrabad Commercial Area.

While addressing a ceremony at a hotel Mirza Abbas said that as most of the Chittagong people are religious and following dispute over conventional banking system, opening of the Islamic banking branch here was a timely one.

Dhaka Bank Chairman ATM Hayatuzzaman Khan made the address of welcome while the managing director of the bank Shahed Noman gave the vote of thanks.

Fuchs Lubricants happy over performance The 16 th Board of Directors' meeting of Fuchs Lubricants Bangladesh Limited was held here on Sunday.

The meeting thoroughly discussed operational as well as marketing performance of Lubricants and Specialties.

The board expressed satisfaction over the performance of the company that went into operation in March in 1999 blending world-class lubricants and greases from its plant at Chittagong with 100 per cent foreign investment and technology transfer from Fuchs Petrolub AG of Germany. Director Mumtaz Ahmed Jamil presided.

Managing Director Md. Nazmul Haq, Company Secretary ABM Humayun Kabir FCMA and Technical Sales and Marketing Manager SM Akbar also spoke.

Bahaddarhat dev work begins

Implementation of Bahaddarhat intersection expansion and road development work started here on Friday.

The implementation work formally began at Bahaddarhat crossing in presence of the board members and high officials of Chittagong Development Authority (CDA).

CDA will complete the work under a busy intersection expansion and road development project involving Tk 9.42 crore.

Under the project Tk 1 crore will be spent for the expansion and development of Bahaddarhat intersection and road in the current fiscal while it will be completed by 2005-2006.

members of Chittagong Metropolitan Union of Journalists (CMUJ) at Chittagong Circuit House here on Saturday.

Besides, the government will follow the policies of late President Ziaur Rahman for welfare of the journalist community, he said.

Plans to upgrade port city

Ministry for Housing and Public Works has taken up plans for building township in the port city and developing it according to the master plan to upgrade it as the commercial capital in true sense.

Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas said this while he was exchanging views with the



Dr. Sanjida Khatun and Sheela Momen, the principal of Fulki, sing a song while inaugurating Sonartari, a cultural school for children. The inaugural ceremony was held on the premises of Fulki, an educational institute for children in the port city.

Lions Club Dist 315 B-4 executives

Lion Ekram Hossain and Lion Anwar Shawkat Afser were elected Governor and Vice-Governor of Lions Club District 315 B-4 for 2004-2005 here on Friday.

Ekram, who retired as the Executive Vice-President of Arab Bangladesh Bank Limited recently, is a member of the Lions Club for 28 years and Anwar, managing director of Bengal Bay Group, for 15 years.



Lion Ekram Hossain



Lion Anwar Shawkat Afser