

Expansion of advisory council faces legal complexities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Constitutional and legal problems are preventing the government from making new appointments to share the heavy workload of the 10 current advisers, said the Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim yesterday.

The council of advisers has agreed in principle that it needs more members to share the workload of the existing advisers, but "it is only a question of how," Fahim said.

"It is being delayed because of legal tangles," he said at a press briefing at the Chief Adviser's Office. "The government has to ensure that the process of appointments follows the constitution."

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ESSENTIALS

4 traders held for charging high price

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Joint forces yesterday arrested four retailers from different kitchen markets at New Market and Shahbagh in the capital as they were charging high prices for essential commodities.

To curb the ongoing trend of uncontrolled price hike, the joint forces will continue their drives against unscrupulous retailers who overcharge consumers for daily commodities, said sources in the joint forces.

During a raid in the morning, the forces arrested two retailers from the New Market area.

The two businessmen, Abdul

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Mir Nasir gets 13yrs in jail for graft

His son too gaoled for 3 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An anti-graft tribunal yesterday sentenced former state minister for civil aviation Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin to 13 years' imprisonment for committing two offences while it sentenced his son Mir Mohammad Helaluddin to three years in jail for abetting his father in the corruption.

The Special Court-2 set up at the MP Hostel in the parliament complex in the capital also fined Mir Nasir Tk 50 lakh in default of which he will have to spend another two years in jail.



Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin

Nasir was handed down 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for illegally accumulating huge wealth and three years' simple jail for concealing information of wealth worth Tk 6,72,68,000 in the report he had submitted to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Helal was convicted for trying to withdraw and transfer about Tk 5.64 crore from their family joint accounts to the accounts of his wife and mother-in-law to help his father conceal property information.

The court also directed the

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Tk 628CR SWINDLED OUT THRU' FALSE DOCUMENTS

BB fines nine banks for loan irregularities

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has fined nine commercial banks for giving loans to Chittagong-based businessman Nurunnabi against fake documents and different fictitious names.

Of them, eight private banks will have to pay Tk 1 lakh each in fines while the nationalised Sonali Bank has been fined Tk 10,000, a BB letter said on Sunday.

The BB investigation revealed that Nurunnabi swindled Tk 628 crore out of the banks in the port city showing false documents.

On April 30, the BB sent letters to 10 commercial banks asking them why actions should not be taken against the banks for violating the Money Laundering Act. Of them, Social Investment Bank Limited (SIBL) was exempted from the charges later.

The eight banks are First Security Bank, Bangladesh Commerce Bank, Mutual Trust Bank, Jamuna Bank, IFIC Bank, National Credit and Commerce Bank, Premier Bank and Dhaka Bank.

Different branches of the banks' in Chittagong allowed Nurunnabi to

open accounts either in his name or fictitious names and loans in huge amounts were issued through irregular processes.

The BB investigation, however, found that Sonali Bank did not give loan to any fictitious person, but it failed to properly evaluate the necessary documents for getting loans.

The central bank probe revealed that the banks gave loans to Dewan Enterprise, Moni International, Kashem and Brothers, MR Traders, Square International, Nawab Mia, Anwar Mia, Abdul Hannan, ASM

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NBR sues Tuku for Tk 3.8cr tax evasion

Verdict of Lobi's case today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Detained former state minister for power Iqbal Hassan Mahmood Tuku was sued by National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday for evading Tk 3.80 crore in income tax.

Judgement of a case against former BNP lawmaker Ali Asgar Lobi filed for evading Tk 17 crore income tax will be delivered today.

Proceedings of a criminal case against former law minister barrister Moudud Ahmed were adjourned yesterday.

TUKU'S TAX EVASION CASE

Senior Special Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka issued an arrest warrant against Tuku after Mohammad Nurul

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EXPLOSIVES ACT

Charges framed against Dulu, 93 others

STAR REPORT

Natore District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday framed charges against former BNP deputy minister Ruhul Kuddus Talukhdar Dulu and 93 others under Explosives Act for using gunpowder during arson and looting at three villages at Naldanga of the district in 2004.

In Rajshahi, a court acquitted former lawmaker and Rajshahi city BNP General Secretary Nadim Mostafa and seven other accused of a case filed for misappropriating corrugated iron sheets meant for the government relief fund yesterday, a day after Nadim and 11 of his thugs were sued in an extortion case with Puthia Police Station.

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Fertiliser hungry farmers ransack UNO office

Clashes erupt over improper distribution at Nachole; 10 including UNO injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Thousands of fertiliser deprived farmers of Nachole upazila in Chapainawabganj yesterday damaged the upazila parishad office and torched its furniture and documents in a desperate rage against the local authorities' mismanagement in distributing the essential agricultural input.

Ten persons including Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Monjur Morshed, Upazila Agriculture Officer Abul Kalam Azad, Upazila Monitoring Officer of the

Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) Asaduzzman, and a farmer Abdul Latif were injured during the one-hour wildcat protest.

The scene was almost a déjà vu to some of the incidents that had taken place during the famous peasant uprising of 1949-50 in the same area, which got itself etched permanently in the history of the people's struggle of not only this country but the entire subcontinent.

Manjur Morshed was hospitalised in Chapainawabganj town

while Abul Kalam Azad, Saidur Rahman, Asaduzzaman, and Abdul Latif were admitted to the upazila health complex yesterday.

Our Chapainawabganj correspondent reported that the trouble began around 11:00am when UNO Manjur Morshed intervened into an ongoing pre-planned fertiliser distribution event among queued up farmers in the upzila parishad compound and assaulted one of the agriculture department staff while hurling expletives towards the fertiliser seeking farmers, said

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PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Aggrieved at the scanty supply of fertiliser, farmers vandalised the UNO office at Nachole, set fire to the furniture and documents and injured the UNO (inset) in Chapainawabganj yesterday.

Suranjit for powerful president, not PM

Wants abolition of PM's sectt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) Presidium Member Suranjit Sengupta yesterday announced a rather sweeping proposal for bringing reforms to the body politic of the country including party reforms.

His proposal suggests that the executive power of a government should lie with the country's president instead of the prime minister, which should be exercised by the president through the cabinet instead of the prime minister.

"The state should be run based

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Suranjit Sengupta

BNP REFORMISTS MAY SUGGEST 4-yr govt tenure, ban on hartal, blockade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Besides revising their reform proposals for the party, pro-reform BNP leaders are also preparing a set of proposals for reforms in the country's political culture and state affairs.

Suggesting a ban on political programmes like hartals and blockades in their new proposals is under active consideration of the pro-reform leaders, according to sources close to them.

"We are also thinking of a proposal for reducing the tenure of government to four years," one leader said. Proposals may also be made for making parliament effec-

tive so that lawmakers can play their proper role, he added.

Pro-reform leaders have already finalised some changes in their reform proposals including those concerning the term of party secretary general, and presidents and secretaries of district units of the party to ensure intra-party democracy.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will announce within a couple of days changes in the reform proposals, and fresh proposals about politics and national institutions like parliament, party sources said.

"Some changes are being made

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Sangakkara pile on misery

BISHWAJIT ROY from Colombo

Riding on Kumar Sangakkara's masterful double hundred, Sri Lanka were closing in on recording yet another massive victory as Bangladesh produced nothing new on the second day of the second Test at the P Sara Stadium here on Wednesday.

The day once again was just about the sorry tale of Bangladesh

in Colombo as they continued their poor showing. The visitors faced banters from all corners of the venue as the top-order, once again, failed to put up any resistance with a huge 389-run first innings deficit.

The same old pathetic batting in the second innings saw Bangladesh finish the day on 69-4, still 320 runs behind to avoid another innings defeat. After being

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Detained CCC engineer dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Detained Superintending Engineer (Electrical) of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) died at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) yesterday morning.

The engineer, Mohammad Shahidullah, 52, complained of chest pain at around 8:00am and was rushed to the hospital where he died soon after admission.

The joint forces arrested the CCC engineer on graft charges while he was coming out of the ACC office in Agrabad Commercial area at around 7:30pm on June 26.

Later, he was taken to the joint forces' camp in the port city and sent to jail on June 27 following a court order.

Sahidullah was suspended from the CCC after the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Chittagong, lodged a graft case on May 27 accusing CCC Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Engineer Shahidullah and two other CCC officials of opening a private TV channel, Bijoy TV, illegally.