

**PLANNING MINISTRY
Move to promote official in violation of rules draws ire**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A government move to promote an official at the planning ministry by flouting rules and regulations has raised ire of some 100 senior officials who feel they are being superseded.

The ministry sources said an official under the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) economic cadre would be promoted on the basis of seniority, which included his years in development projects.

But according to Regularisation and Seniority Regulations 1995, when an official is transferred from development projects to revenue budget, the time spent at the projects cannot be counted as service years, the officials said.

On July 25, the Superior Selection Board approved the promotion of the official to joint chief at the planning ministry, thereby giving him seniority under the economic cadre, they added.

Transfer of an official from the 'development project' to the 'revenue budget' means that he or she is brought under the BCS cadre structure and starts to receive government benefits from that point of time, the officials said.

Last year the officials filed a writ petition challenging the promotion and the High Court ordered in January that the issue be resolved according to the regulations.



Nagorik Uddyog Chairperson Khan Sarwar Murshid speaks at a roundtable at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is Mursalin Khan Chowdhury and on his left are Sazzad Hossain, Shamim Iftekhar and Firoj Ahamed.

Join fight against corruption

Speakers urge youths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called on the youths to join the fight against corruption, say-

ing that only the young people have the strength and spirit to bring about positive changes.

Stressing the need to step up the anti-corruption drive,

they also said the institutions concerned must be effective and strong to win the war on corruption. At the same time, it has to be ensured that no innocent persons are victimised, they added.

Jubo Nagorik Odhikar Jote, Nagorik Uddyog and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) jointly organised the roundtable at the National Press Club.

"It is possible to eliminate corruption using the indomitable spirit of the youth," said Khan Sarwar Murshid, a trustee of TIB and chairperson of Nagorik Uddyog.

Youths have emerged as the power of change as they always want to resist corruption and irregularities, he said, adding that the spirit of the youths might be used to curb corruption.

Presenting the keynote paper, Shamim Iftekhar, advocacy officer of TIB, said corruption could not be curbed due to lack of political will.

Even the institutions such as parliament, judiciary, law enforcement agency, administration, Election Commission, Public Service Commission, Anti-Corruption Commission had been ineffective, he added.

Corruption has spread to every sector in the country as corrupt people have gone unpunished, he said.

The speakers said a corruption-free environment is necessary to reduce unemployment and that the youth should come forward to create such an environment.

Sazzad Hossain, senior advocacy officer of TIB, Firoj Ahamed, youth coordinator of Jubo Nagorik Odhikar Jote, Mursalin Khan Chowdhury, director of TIB, and Shamsul Haque Polash, Saqlain and Shahjahan Hossain Saju, members of youth engagement and support programme of TIB, also spoke at the roundtable moderated by Zakir Hossain, chief executive of Nagorik Uddyog.

523 more jute workers get arrear wages

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A total of 523 more retrenched workers of the closed Peoples Jute Mills received their arrear wages of 15 weeks yesterday.

Habibur Rahman, project director of the closed jute mills,

said payment of dues to 3100 retrenched workers will be completed by Wednesday.

Meanwhile, security measures have been stepped up in the Khulna-Jessore industrial belt from Friday to avoid further clashes between police and

workers of Chittagong Amin Jute Mills.

Joint forces and police have intensified patrol keeping watch on movement of CBA leaders of seven state-owned jute mills of Khulna-Jessore industrial belt.

