

No work at SCC office for second day

Acting mayor meets LGRD adviser in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

An uneasy calm prevailed at Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) office yesterday, a day after dismissal of 431 employees by LGRD ministry. There was no work at the office for the second day.

However, SCC authorities asked 257 of the 431 people to continue work until further instruction to maintain essential services like electricity, water supply, conservancy and health and sanitation, sources said.

But employees in other departments at the SCC office did not work yesterday. Officials could not use their official vehicles as drivers except those in conservancy section did not join duty.

A police contingent deployed at the SCC building premises on Monday remained on duty.

SCC secretary Harun Ur Rashid told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon, "We asked employees and officials in essential service departments to continue work so that

civic life is not hampered. "However, employees in other departments did not work for the second day", he said.

Meanwhile, a 3-member team led by acting mayor Azam Khan met the LGRD adviser at his office in the capital yesterday and discussed the situation following dismissal of the employees. The two others were ward commissioners Azizul Haque Manik and Mohammad Shahjahan.

They informed the adviser that approval of the SCC organogram remained pending for years though Sylhet Pourashava was upgraded to a city corporation in 2002.

Details of the meeting could not be known immediately.

An investigation in November this year done by a committee led by the Additional Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet termed appointment of 431 staff 'un-approved and illegal'.

Though Sylhet division was formed in 1994, the divisional headquarters--the then Sylhet

Pourashava--was upgraded to city corporation in 2002. With formation of city corporation and expansion of its area, it needed more manpower.

To meet the demand, SCC made some temporary appointments in posts of 4th class employees like cleaner, electrician, helper and peon on master roll (no work no payment) basis. However, one class-I and some class-II and class-III employees were also recruited.

Taking the advantage, a section of SCC officials recruited as many as 431 people on master roll during 2003-2005, many of them allegedly remunerated in exchange of money, sources said.

After promulgation of emergency law, enforcers caught the chief engineer, an executive engineer and some ward commissioners for their alleged complicity in the illegal appointments.

During quizzing, they confessed many 'unfair deals' including alleged realisation of money in appointments. They told the interrogators that a group had earned huge amounts of money from many master roll employees, promising regularisation of their services.

But nothing could be done as the local government ministry did not approve the appointments.

As the matter went to the knowledge of LGRD ministry, it moved to cancel the appointments in June. Acting mayor Azam Khan then appealed to the ministry saying all services by the city corporation will collapse if 431 employees out of 581 are sacked.

The ministry took a lenient view and kept things suspended till formation of a probe team.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Division
HYSAWA Project
Local Government Support Unit
Ground Floor, DPHE Bhaban,
Kakrail Dhaka

Short Term Consultants
Required for
HYSAWA Project

The Hygiene, Sanitation and Water Supply Project requires to enlist a number of short term consultants with expertise in the following areas:

Management Information System, Webpage development, Private Sector Support, Research in innovative technologies in water supply and sanitation, Awareness development through media and culture, Project management, and Public procurement management.

The Consultants will be engaged on short term basis (a few weeks and up to six month) based on Danida procedures and governed by Danida's remuneration schedule for local consultants. Interested consultants with at least 10 years (5 years for webpage development) of experience may submit their CVs showing their educational background and experience in relevant fields, including expected remuneration and other details, if any, to the undersigned on or before 26 December 2007, during office hours. Brief Terms of Reference for the consultants may be obtained from the HYSAWA Project office.

Project Director
HYSAWA Project, Ground Floor, DPHE Bhaban, 14
Shahid Capt. Mansur Ali Sarani, Kakrail, Dhaka
Tel: 9346167

GD-4395

Give top priority to farm loans in time BB governor asks bankers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Bangladesh Bank governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed yesterday asked officials of nationalised and private commercial banks to complete disbursement of loans to farmers in Sidr-affected areas on priority basis by January next year.

Any irregularity and malpractice in loan disbursement will be severely dealt with, he said.

"We are committed to provide necessary financial support to restore economic activities crippled by the November 15 cyclone, he told bankers at a view-exchange meeting held at the conference room of the central bank's Khulna office. It was presided over by BB's general manager in Khulna Sarder Mohammad Shahjahan.

Executive Director of the central bank Khandaker Mazharul Huq also accompanied the governor and was present in the meeting.

Dr Salehuddin Ahmed said agriculture being the vital part of country's economy must be geared up by providing loans to farmers, particularly in Sidr-affected areas.

The loans must be provided at

Dinajpur FFs demand trial of war criminals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

Freedom fighters at a reunion meeting yesterday demanded punishment of war criminals.

The meeting was organised by Phulbari Freedom Fighters at Phulbari Dakbangle marking December 4, the day when they liberated Phulbari from Pakistani occupation forces.

About 500 freedom fighters and their families attended the meeting, presided over by Md. Monsur Ali Sarker. Dinajpur Pauroshava chairman Md. Shafiqul Haque Chhutti attended the meeting as chief guest while District Commander of Freedom Fighters Md. Mokhshed Ali Mongolia was the special guest.

Speakers at the meeting also demanded enhancement of FF's monthly allowance from Tk 500 now.

Later the freedom fighters, carrying banners and flags, took out a procession in the town.

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During quizzing, they confessed many 'unfair deals' including alleged realisation of money in appointments. They told the interrogators that a group had earned huge amounts of money from many master roll employees, promising regularisation of their services.

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As the matter went to the knowledge of LGRD ministry, it moved to cancel the appointments in June. Acting mayor Azam Khan then appealed to the ministry saying all services by the city corporation will collapse if 431 employees out of 581 are sacked.

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the right time. Otherwise, the entire economy of the country would face a challenge, he said.

The central bank governor said he has asked bankers to give loans to farmers, fishermen, and small and medium level businessmen.

Price spiral of essential commodities can not be checked if we fail to rejuvenate the agriculture sector once again, the governor said.

"It is not the proper time to judge who is loan defaulter in cyclone-affected areas. It is the time to provide easy-term loans to farmers and fishermen", he said.

The government has set the loan disbursement target at Tk 1300 crore in cyclone-affected areas and Tk 300 crore of it has so far been disbursed, he told the meeting. Untimely loan disbursement will be of no use, he added.

Dr Salehuddin Ahmed expressed his displeasure at failure of private banks to give loans to farmers in affected areas though they were supposed to do so.

"I will call a meeting of private bankers soon to discuss the matter", he said.

The loans must be provided at

Cancel voter list monitoring body in CHT

Somo Adhikar memo to CEC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bandarban*

Parbatty Chhogram Bangali Samo Adhikar Andolon yesterday demanded cancellation of the Committee for Voter List Monitoring and Management in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

Bandarban district unit of Samo Adhikar Andolon submitted a memorandum to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) during his visit here.

The Election Commission (EC) formed three separate committees for Bandarban, Rangamati and Khagrachari hill districts for monitoring and management of the ongoing voter list preparation process.

The committee was formed under leadership of the chairman of the District Council while the immediate past chairman of the Council, representative of the concerned circle chief, headman, members of civil society and tribal leaders are in the committee.

Samo Adhikar Andolon claimed that although 50 percent Bangla speaking people live in the area, but no member from them was accommodated in the committee according to ratio in the monitoring committee.



Sidr left rivers, canals and ponds dirty and polluted. Like in other affected areas, women in Raj-Rajeswar union in Chandpur Sadar upazila are compelled to use the polluted water as they have no alternative.

Time to rebuild democracy, establish good governance CEC says in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangamati*

A criminal has been arrested from the town by members of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB).

Acting on a tip-off, RAB arrested Sazat, 30, son of Abdul Malik from Pagla Kanai area here Sunday night.

On his confessional statement, they recovered two live bombs from his house. Later, the arrestee was handed over to Sadar police yesterday. He was being quizzed till filing of the report yesterday afternoon.

He urged people to elect honest candidates keeping national and local interests in mind.

A correct voter list and issuance of national ID cards is the first prerequisite to hold a free and fair election. Though it is Election Commission's responsibility, accomplishment of the great job needs all out cooperation of all sections of people, he said.

He said the number of voters may decrease in many areas as registration of fake voters will be strictly dealt with.

"At least we have to start a good culture, even if we can not complete the whole task".

Every citizen has to come forward with sincerity and integrity to complete the great job, Shamsul Huda said at view-exchange meet-

ing at Rangamati Tribal Culture Institute auditorium.

Referring to politics in the recent past, he said Bangladesh's image was tainted due to corruption by a section of political leaders.

"Black money holders by using muscle power dominated politics in the past. A correct voter list and judicious franchise will allow honest people to come to politics in future", the CECs said.

He said the number of voters may decrease in many areas as registration of fake voters will be strictly dealt with.

"At least we have to start a good culture, even if we can not complete the whole task".

Even electoral laws could be amended to prevent dishonest people from joining the polls race, he said.

Terming the CHT a 'special region', Shamsul Huda urged to all to give suggestions and inform EC in case of any problem. "The EC will consider things as much as possible".

Polling centres in inaccessible areas in CHT will be increased and they may be even relocated at suitable places, the CECs said.

Election Commissioner Brig (rtd) M Shahkawat Hossain was special guest at the meeting, addressed by among others, CHT Regional Council Chairman Santu Larma, Ranagmati Brigade Commander Col. Mostafa Ahmed Sakib psc, Rangamati Hill District Council Chairman Jagat Jyoti Chakma, Police Superintendent Abdul Baten and Pousarabha chairman Habibur Rahman. Deputy Commissioner Md. Nurul Amin presided.

1,000 Sidr orphans sheltered in Sharonkhola

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Jagrata Jubo Sangha (JJS), an NGO has opened three shelter homes for the ill-fated children who lost their parents after the devastating Sidr that swept over Sharonkhola upazila in Bagerhat on November 15.

The NGO has so far accommodated over 1,000 children in their shelter homes named Shishu Suraksha Kendra situated in Sharonkhola and Rayenda.

Nazmul Huda, an official of the NGO and superintendent of Shishu Suraksha Kendra project said that only Sidr affected children will be given shelter in the homes. Besides providing with food and medicine, the children will be given books, toys, ludo and chessboards for their recreation, he said. "We have opened the shelters to protect the orphan children from kidnapping, torture or harassment", Huda said. Three more shelter homes will be opened in the upazila as number of orphan children is increasing day by day", the NGO official added.

Job Re-Advertisement

Government of the People's

Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

Office of the Project Director

Enhance the Capacity of DLS Project

Department of Livestock Services, Pashu Sampad Bhaban

Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh

The project to 'Enhance the Capacity of Department of Livestock Services', is recruiting a long-term National Adviser for a period of 05 years. The position is based in the Department of Livestock Services (DLS), under the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. The project is part of the Regional Fisheries and Livestock Development Component (RLFDC) of the Agricultural Sector Programme Support Phase II (2006-2011), which is implemented by the Government of Bangladesh with support from the Danish International Development Assistance (Danida). The project in DLS is managed by a National Project Director (PD), supported by an International Senior Adviser (SA) and national staff. Bangladesh nationals are invited to apply for the position.

National Adviser (01 full-time post)

The National Adviser will work closely with the Project Director on a daily basis. The key responsibilities and duties are:

- To support the respective departments in the implementation of the strategies and action plans outlined in the recent sector reviews and policy documents (Livestock Sector Review and Future Development Study: Livestock Policy and Action Plan);
- To advise the respective departments in their mandates and in the provision of public goods (policy formulation, development of legislative and regulatory frameworks, setting directions for strategic research, quality control for inputs and products);
- To assist relevant government staff in the development and management of an integrated MIS, allowing the departments to make informed policy decisions on the basis of the assessment of ongoing trends. This will include monitoring, evaluation and documentation of field subcomponent activities;
- To develop curricula for different training programme relation to HRD of DLS;
- To organise different training programmes;
- To promote coordination of activities with the field level DPP; This would include the drafting of TOR, as well as contracting and supervision of international and national short-term consultants;
- In cooperation with PD and SA maintain contact to other projects relevant to RFLDC activities at both national and field levels in order to explore possibilities for coordination and harmonisation of strategies and procedures;
- Through participation in the PSC to promote coordination and integration of public sector extension activities in the livestock sub-sector;
- Jointly with the PD and SA hold responsibility for the operation of the Department Support Unit, including financial and personnel management and administration;
- Jointly with the PD and SA, coordinate the planning and budgeting process and prepare semi-annual plans and budgets to be approved by the PSC;
- Jointly with PD, be responsible for monitoring sub-component implementation and the preparation of financial and progress reporting;
- Prepare short issues-oriented reports as required for discussion of specific issues for Programme Steering Committee meetings, LCG meetings, and by the EOD, or with other relevant stakeholders. This would include information on lessons learned during implementation of sub-component interventions;
- Be responsible to PD, SA and to the EOD for proper utilisation and management of financial and material resources provided by Danida for implementation of Sub-Component activities;
- Work closely with PD and Senior Adviser on all matters to ensure a smooth transition of responsibility;
- Carry out other tasks as requested by the departments and/or the EOD.

The position requires knowledge and experience in both technical and policy issues in Livestock especially rural based livestock development programmes. Thus, candidates are expected to have the following educational background and working experiences:

- Education at University level (Masters or Doctoral) in Veterinary Science/Animal Husbandry.
- Extensive working experience in development planning and policy formulation in the sector, especially in Asia.
- Inter-personal skills with high level of initiative and diplomacy.
- Capacity to manage and facilitate work processes involving parties at different levels.
- Fluency in spoken and written English.

The position carries a basic salary starting at BDT 57,239/month plus other benefit as admissible.

Applications including full CV, photo, copies of degree certificates, and clearly stating the name of the position applied for on the envelope, may be submitted to: 'Enhance the Capacity of Department of Livestock Services' Project, Department of Livestock Services (3rd Floor), Pashu Sampad Bhaban, Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka, within 2 January 2008. Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

This is a re-advertisement. Previous applicants must reapply if still interested. Any attempts to unduly influence the selection and recruitment process will be considered a disqualification.



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