

Reform police during CG

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Legal experts, politicians, civil society members and NGO personalities yesterday advocated for reforms in the police department during the tenure of the present caretaker government as the previous political governments did not bring any reform in the department.

Addressing a roundtable titled 'Proposed Police Ordinance and Citizens' Thinking', they suggested to make the police accountable to local government representatives or local committees to check harassment by police by filing false cases and arresting people and recommended for increasing their salary.

Noted jurist and Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain said enactment of laws for reforms in the police is urgent.

Dr Kamal said the state should be brought under people's control, not under politicians, as citizens are the real source of power.

Referring to politicians, Dr Kamal said, "Police will work for the people if we can elect such real representatives."

Former IGP and ex-adviser SM Shahjahan said the proposed ordinance has been prepared aiming at making police as an institution which will be service-oriented, pro-people, professional and respectable to the rules of law.

Organised by Shushashoner Janney Nagorik (Shujon) at the National Press Club in the city, the roundtable was moderated by TIB Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad. Two keynote papers were presented by Shujon Secretary Dr Badiul Alam Majumder and Deputy Inspector General of Police

Benzir Ahmed.

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said political parties did not bring the reforms as the existing laws served their interest. He said he has found police to stand beside both victims and oppressors. So, it needs to be removed the dual pictures of the police before reforms.

Former adviser M Hafizuddin Khan said initiatives were taken to bring reforms in police several times, but nothing happened. He opined that police should be kept free from political influence. He also stressed on non-politicisation of police, but transparency and accountability in the force should also be ensured.

Stressing the need for enhancing skills among police personnel, Dr Zafarullah Chowdhury of Ganoshasthaya Kendro suggested for increasing training period for

police cadre officers to two years and a half with one year's training at military academy. He also suggested for submitting wealth account of policemen when they join the service.

He opined for inclusion of a woman leader, political leader and a civil society member in the selection panel of the police commission.

Awami League leader Lt Col (Retd) Faruq Khan said the present caretaker government should not pass the ordinance because if it is enacted now, it may not work during the tenure of any political government next. So, a political government should enact it as a law.

Jatiya Party leader GM Quader viewed that the draft ordinance seems to have been formulated unilaterally.

Former cabinet secretary Hussein Tawfiq Imam said He also said power of police has been expanded so extensively in the draft ordinance that the country can be turned into a police state.

In the keynote speech, Shujon secretary said it is urgent to make a legal framework for the police, instead of the existing one, to make the force skilled, transparent, accountable, pro-people and respectable to human and women rights.

Criticising the proposed police ordinance-2007, he said the ordinance should be made clear about the coordination among home ministry, national police commission, police complaint authority and police research bureau. It also should be made clear how will be the relations between district police and the district administration, he added.

Dr Majumder also viewed that as the post of chief justice is non-political, neutral and honourable, a judge nominated by the chief justice as his representative should be made chief of the selection panel for appointing neutral member of the national police commission.

He also suggested that an assistant superintendent of police (ASP) should be made chief of a police station.

Former IGP Nurul Huda, Inam Ahmed Chowdhury, Additional IGP Baharul Alam and CPB leader Ruhin Hossain Prince also spoke on the occasion.

Appeal for help



Sheikh Haiduzzaman, a student of Faridpur Rajendra University College, is suffering from cancer, says a press release.

As advised by cancer specialist Dr Mosharraf Hossain, he went to Kolkata Thakur Pukur Cancer Trade Centre on April 14, 2005.

After 30 days, six chemotherapy and 12 CT scan there, the doctors were hopeful about his recovery.

But on March 5, 2007 he again fell seriously ill. Haiduzzaman is now under the treatment of Dr DK Mukharjee.

The Indian doctors have now advised him to go to London for better treatment.

Meanwhile, Tk 20 lakh has been spent for his treatment. The father of Haiduzzaman is a poor man and it is almost impossible for him to afford the cost of treatment in London.

So he has appealed for financial assistance from the affluent people of the society to save the life of his son.

Contributions can be sent to Sheikh Abul Hossain, Account No 5642, Rupali Bank, Moghbazar Branch, Dhaka or Sheikh Abul Hossain, Account No 1973, Agrani Bank, Jhikargachha Branch, Jessore.

His cell phone number is 01712839335.

AM Shamsuzzoha Soheli

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



A M Shamsuzzoha Soheli, a post-graduate student of Mirpur Bangla College, is suffering from acute exacerbation of ulcerative colitis.

As suggested by Dr Mahmud Hasan, a specialist in gastrointestinal, liver and pancreatic diseases, Soheli was taken to Chennai of India.

But as the experts there stressed the need for immediate operation which would cost Tk 6 lakh, he was brought back home.

His condition is deteriorating day by day.

It is not possible for his retired father, who had already spent Tk 5 lakh for the treatment of his son, to arrange another Tk 6 lakh.

So Soheli's parents have sought financial help from the well-off section of the society for his treatment.

Contributions can be sent to Shamsunnahar Ahmed, Savings Account No 20189278, Sonali Bank, Mirpur-1, Dhaka-1216. Cell Phone 01912858227.



Guests hold copies of two books by Nurjahan Murshid at a publication ceremony at the Sufia Kamal auditorium of the National Museum in the city yesterday. From left are eminent litterateur Selina Hossain, Prof Anisuzzaman, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury and Dr Kamal Hossain.

BOOK LAUNCHING

'Nurjahan Murshid fought for discrimination-free society'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a book launching ceremony yesterday said Nurjahan Murshid wanted to establish a Bangladesh based on the spirit of the liberation war through her writings and politics.

They said a political leader and a conscious citizen like Nurjahan is badly needed now.

Two books - an autobiography of Nurjahan titled 'Amar Kichhu Katha' and a Memorial Book on her were launched at the Sufia Kamal auditorium of the National Museum in the city.

Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Prof Anisuzzaman and eminent litterateur Selina Hossain unwrapped the cover of the books.

Nurjahan was an organiser of the liberation war, a renowned politician, an MP and a minister of Bangladesh's government, a litterateur and an editor of the magazine titled 'Ae Desh Ae Kal'. She was born in Murshidabad in 1924 and died in Dhaka in 2003.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury said, Nurjahan believed that only collective efforts can ensure freedom.

Prof Anisuzzaman said Nurjahan always fought for estab-

lishing a society free from repression and discrimination.

Selina Hossain said Nurjahan had the conviction that women would have to ensure their empowerment by dint of their own efforts.

Editor and Publisher of The

Daily Star Mahfuz Anam also spoke on the occasion.

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain, former Vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Zillur Rahman Siddique and Awami League leader Abul Mal Abdul Muhit were also present.

CTG ARMS HAUL CASE

Court refuses to send 2 prime accused

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A court in the port city yesterday scrapped a law enforcement agency prayer for taking two of the accused in the Chittagong arms haul case to a remand.

Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate Abdul Md Hasib threw away the prayer for taking into remand prime accused Hafizur Rahman alias Hafiz, and Din Mohammad during a hearing of the case in connection with hauling of 10 truckloads of deadly weapons and a huge quantity of ammu-

munition at Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL) jetty on April 2, 2004.

Investigation Officer of the case Special SP Ismail Hossain Khan of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) submitted the petition during a hearing held on April 21 arguing that the accused two should be quizzed again.

Two cases were filed with Karnaphuli police station in connection with the incident.

CID started a second investigation into the 'case' when a Chittagong court on March 5 ordered it to do so.

ACC clears Motia Chy of charges

FROM PAGE 1

connection with the Tk 21 crore bribery case, was sent to jail after being produced before a Dhaka court.

ACC Deputy Director Moniruzzaman Khan, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the probe report to the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court yesterday afternoon.

The other accused are former joint secretary of food ministry Mohammad Shafayat Ali, its former deputy secretary Dr Mohammad Ayub Miah, former senior assistant secretary Faruk Hossain, former deputy general manager of Agrani bank Ehsanul Aziz, its former senior officer (cash) Naimur Rahman, and two ex-officials Anis Sultan Mamun and Nurul Huda and ex-local permanent representative SM Ershad Hossain.

The IO in the probe report said the charges brought against Motia and others were not proved. He appealed to the court for dropping the charges against them.

An official of the now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) Syed Tahsinul Haq filed the case against Motia and eight others with Ramna Police Station on April 22, 2002.

In the first information report

(FIR), the complainant said that Motia in collusion with others caused a loss of Tk 133,064,800 to the government by importing rice from India from 1998 to 1999.

CASE AGAINST SUFIAN Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani passed the order for sending Sufian to jail after ACC Deputy Assistant Director Rupak Kumar Saha, also the IO of the case, produced the accused before the court with a forwarding report.

In the forwarding report, the IO said Sufian was arrested for giving Tk 20 crore to detained former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar and Tk 1 crore to BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman for dropping murder charges against Safiat Sobhan Sanvir, son of Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan.

So, he needs to be kept in jail custody until the investigation completes, the IO added.

The defence lawyers submitted a bail petition saying that their client had resigned as a director of the company on December 8, 2005. He was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him.

The ACC on Wednesday approved the charge sheet of the bribery case against Tarique, Babar and six others submitted by ACC Deputy Director and IO of the case

Rupak Kumar Saha.

ACC Deputy Assistant Director Abul Kashem filed the case against six persons on October 10 last year for taking a bribe of Tk 21 crore to save Bashundhara Group chairman's son Sanvir from murder charges.

Later, Tarique and former law-maker Qazi Saleemul Huq Kamal was indicted in the case after their involvement was found in an investigation.

The other accused in the case are Bashundhara Group Chairman Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam and his two sons Shafiat Sobhan Sanvir and Sadaat Sobhan, and Tarique's private secretary Mia Nur Uddin Aps.

The ACC accused them of taking and giving bribe to save Sanvir from the charges of killing Bashundhara Group director Humayun Kabir Sabir on July 5, 2006.

Sources said the investigators found that Tarique had taken Tk 1 crore in bribe while Tk 6 crore was paid in cash and Tk 14 crore through cheques and pay-orders to Babar, who mobilised the amount to Prime Bank Director Saleemul's account.

Babar took the bribe at different times between August 7 and September 13 in 2006.

Chevron plans to complete survey

FROM PAGE 16

news agency UNB, adding that about one-third of data recording has been completed so far.

Chevron started its work on three-dimensional (3D) seismic survey in January this year in this gas-field to determine a better understanding of the size and location of the gas reserves.

The field was discovered in 1999 and production began in 2005. Now it produces up to 75 million cubic feet (mmcf) of gas per day.

Wilson said the most modern technology is being used in the survey, which covers nearly 150 square kilometres, including about 16 percent within the Lawachhara national forest. The survey techniques have been extensively modified for work in Lawachhara's sensitive habitat to ensure that there is no significant impact on the environment.

"Only existing trails have been used, ensuring that no trees are cut during the work," said the company boss.

Speaking about the fire that broke out in the Lawachhara forest on Saturday afternoon, he said, "We were shocked to hear about

the fire over the weekend."

Right now there is no evidence to suggest that the incident is connected to Chevron's activities, he claimed, adding that they are gathering information to understand what really happened.

About the allegation that the fire might have been caused by explosions during survey work, the Chevron's country chief said to date, no charges had been set off in the forest area, and the company had no crew working in the area where the fire broke out at that time.

However, Wilson pointed out that during the survey, small charges would be used, but those would be buried 70 feet deep. "The charges are biodegradable, and when set off, show no trace of any explosion on the surface. They are designed such that sound waves propagate down into the earth."

Commenting on media reports on deafening explosions in the area, Wilson said "the noise level recorded from test shots is less than that recorded from the singing of birds in the forest."

He said Chevron has taken the report on the fire incident very seriously. "Fortunately, from our

initial reports the fire did not appear to cause major damage to the flora and fauna of the forest. We can now confirm that an area of 70 to 35 meters was damaged, and it appears the fire only burnt surface scrub and no trees were harmed."

He said Chevron has launched an investigation into the incident, and recording activities in the forest would be suspended until initial findings of the investigation are reported.

Chevron is also operating two additional gas-fields in the country. Of those, Bibiyana field is producing around 500 mmcf while the Lalalabad field 150 mmcf. In total, the US-based IOC's country outfit now provides about 40 percent of Bangladesh's gas supply, investing more than \$820 million in the business.

Bangladesh's proven and recoverable gas reserves are 13.54 tcf and the country is producing about 1800 mmcf of gas against a demand for over 1900 mmcf.

The gap between demand and supply is widening as the demand from the power and fertilizer plants and industrial consumers is on a steady rise.

Obituary



Alhaj Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Azizur Rahman Nesarabadi (Kayed Saheb Hujur), an eminent Islamic philanthropist

and philosopher, passed away at a city hospital due to old age complications on Monday at the age of 98, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son, three daughters and a host of relatives, disciples and admirers to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Jhalakathi Nesarabad Madrasa ground at 2:00pm today.

He was ameer of Bangladesh Jamiatul Hibullah Nazeme Ala and Bangladesh Hibullah Jamiatul Muslihin.

Britain

FROM PAGE 1
reminding his four years here as British envoy.

He expressed confidence that elections would be held by December this year. "Bangladesh has made a commitment to the United Nations and the international community to hold the election," he said.

Responding to a volley of questions about the uncertainty surrounding the elections, Anwar said the government must create the environment for all parties to take part in polls. "It will be a shame if the two (major) parties do not take part in the election because democracy is about participation," said the British envoy of Bangladesh origin.

Anwar categorically denied any involvement in the declaration of the state of emergency on January 11 last year, and urged Bangladeshis not to 'blame foreigners'.

"We cannot and will not interfere in your country," he said.

The envoy however said the country might have faced a 'civil-war like scenario' if the plan for January 22 elections had gone ahead.

"We don't want a failed democracy in Bangladesh," he said, adding Bangladesh has to look forward and end an obsession with the past.

Anwar hoped that British aid to Bangladesh would not go to the NGOs or the middleclass, and would reach the poorest people.

Reminding his tenure here, the high commissioner recalled that Britain has had to 'wake' Bangladesh up from denial about terrorism.

His objective here was to ensure Britain and Bangladesh understand each other, and contribute to Bangladesh's endeavour to move out of poverty and become an 'equal friend' of Britain, he said. "These are high and lofty ambitions for a young diplomat."

Anwar encouraged 'honest' and 'well qualified' people to join politics, and the government to create an environment for this. "The current reforms of taking away muscle and money from politics is a good start," he said.

The British envoy also said Bangladesh civil service needs to be overhauled to turn it into a service provider from an administrative institution.

"It's a 200-year old mentality, where they (bureaucrats) think they are the masters of the people, and not their servants," said Anwar.

He also said it is important to break the corrupt nexus between politics, bureaucracy and law enforcement in the country.

Halt in recruitment

FROM PAGE 1
ministry, establishment ministry and the chief adviser's office.

Kazi M Aminul Islam, secretary to the chief adviser's office, asked the civil servants to brighten the image of the government and earn people's appreciation through improved performance.

One of the secretaries told the meeting that the deadlock in the recruitment process is hurting the activities of the government in different sectors as no recruitment was done through the PSC after 2005, when 1,063 civil servants were recruited under the 26th BCS (Bangladesh Civil Service) examination.

Another secretary, referring to a 2004 proposal, said the retirement age of government employees should be raised to 60 from 57.

Establishment Secretary Abdus Salam Khan yesterday told The Daily Star that the recruitment of cadre service has been stalled due to a case pending before the court.

A writ petition was filed with the High Court on behalf of 110 examinees of the 27th BCS examination after the authorities cancelled the viva of the examination on May 30 last year due to alleged irregularities.

Following the petition, the High Court stayed the publishing of the result of the 27th BCS exam until the case is dissolved. The viva ended recently.

The government last month issued a circular, almost three years since the last one, for 28th BCS examination to fill up 1,720 posts under 27 cadres.

When the secretaries were asked to verify wealth statements -- a requirement set by the Anti-Corruption Commission -- of employees under their respective ministries and departments, some of them expressed inability citing lack of expertise, said sources.

Finance Secretary Dr Mohammad Tareq said the economy is in good shape despite all adversities.

Dumping of date-expired commodities begins in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Dumping of 74 containers of damaged and date-expired imported essential commodities started here yesterday.

On the first day, the authorities concerned dumped seven containers damaged or date-expired rice, wheat, jelly, ghee, powdered milk and other baby foods, sources said.

The commodities were dumped 10 to 15 metres under the earth at the dumping centre near Halishahar Artillery Training Centre some five kilometres off the port.

Concerned officials of Chittagong Customs House and Chittagong Port Authority and members of joint forces were also present during the dumping that started at around 11:00pm.

According to sources, the commodities were mostly imported before 2003. Complications arising from cases, port and customs procedural delay and importers' reluctance in taking delivery due to 'price fall in local market' caused the essential commodities lie at the port for years to get damaged and date-expired.

A committee comprising members from customs, port, joint forces and others concerned identified the 74 containers of commodities for dumping.

The owners of the containers would bear the cost for carrying the damaged commodities to the dumping centre while respective shipping lines would pay the labour cost needed for destruction, said the sources.



Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed speaks at a seminar at Hotel Sonargaon in the city yesterday. On his left are former president of Dhaka Reporters' Unity M Anwarul Haq and President of OFA Central Governing Body Obaidur Rahman Khan.

Remodel cadet college education system

Gen Moeen tells OFA seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed yesterday underscored the need for remodeling the cadet college education system to keep pace with the demand of the time.

He said such education system would help produce honest and patriotic citizens in the country.

General Moeen was speaking at a seminar titled '50 years of Cadet College Education - A Legacy of Learning' at Hotel Sonargaon in the city.

Old Faujians' Association (OFA) organised the seminar on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Anniversary of Faujdharat Cadet College (FCC).

Speaking as chief guest, General Moeen, himself a cadet of Sargodha Cadet College in Pakistan, said, "Today is a red-letter day in the history of cadet college education."

He said FCC, being the oldest public school, was able to produce some of the finest citizens who excelled in their own arena.

"We are thinking of having a cadet college in every district," he added.

The army chief said the cadet colleges identify the talents of the students in examination test and provide them with the best of facilities to groom up as worthy citizens.

"Our girls are also not lagging behind, and in girls' cadet colleges they have shown that they are also physically capable to cope with the stress of rigorous training," he added.

Gen Moeen paid tributes to Old Faujians martyrs who embraced martyrdom in the War of Liberation and handed over mementos to the family members of martyred Faujians.

Lauding the cadet college education system, Dr Atiq Rahman, winner of 'Champions of Earth' award and a former cadet of FCC, said, "It is FCC that made me what I am today."

"At the beginning, a quarter alleged that cadet colleges were only for the sons of well-to-do families,

but later they were proved wrong as cadets are recruited only on the basis of merit," said former secretary Kazi Rakibuddin, also an ex-Faujian.

Former Ambassador Maj Gen (ret'd) Sayeed presented a paper on the life of the Faujians martyrs.

Manjur Mannan, an ex-Faujian and commissioner of Anti-Corruption Commission, Maj Gen (ret'd) Jalal, Commodore (ret'd) Nizam, former president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry Saiful Islam, Country Director of Bank Alfalalah Majedur Rahman, President of OFA Central Governing Body Obaidur Rahman Khan, Secretary General Najimul Hasan and Moidul Islam, first vice-principal of FCC, also spoke at the seminar moderated by former president of Dhaka Reporters' Unity M Anwarul Haq.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION Delwar alleges cop resistance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia-appointed Secretary General Khondakar Delwar Hossain yesterday alleged that they could not distribute foods among the slum dwellers and madrasa students in the city's Khilgaon area as police snatched away it from them.

Khilgaon police, however, denied the allegation.

Women said the local BNP leaders and activists arranged the foods for the poor people which they could not distribute due to resistances by the police.

Khilgaon police, however, said the foods were distributed among the slum dwellers and madrasa students of Khilgaon Railway gate bosti, Bhuiyapara, Talola Bosti, Khilgaon C Block Bosti, Sipahibagh bazaar and Sipahibagh more areas.



Fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.