

Select officers neutrally for promotion

President asks army selection board

UNB, Dhaka

The President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday asked the Army Headquarters Selection Board to rise above all personal liking and disliking and decide neutrally based on justice in selecting officers for promotion to senior posts.

"I believe, you give promotions to senior officers following specific guidelines... you'll rise above everything and find out through neutral analyses the competent officers, who will be respectful to their commands and more responsible for their subordinates," he said while addressing a meeting of the Army Headquarters Selection Board 2008 at the Army Headquarters.

The president said the officers elevated to senior posts should be temperate and also accountable to the country and the people. "I believe, your wisdom and neutrality will help build up a skilled army."

Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed, PSO of the Armed Forces Division Lt Gen Abdul Momen, Quarter Master General Lt Gen Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, all lieutenant generals and major generals of the selection board were present at the meeting.

Termining the Bangladesh army a part and parcel of national development and advancement, Iajuddin said the army always stood by the people and for the welfare of the nation, and hoped they would make more contributions to the welfare of the motherland in the future.



President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Iajuddin Ahmed addresses a meeting of the Army Headquarters Selection Board 2008 at the Army Headquarters yesterday.

The president expressed the hope that as members of a disciplined and professional army they would perform their duties with sincerity, honesty and firmness imbued with the spirit of highest dutifulness and patriotism.

"The honour you have earned at home and abroad through your professional excellence, dedication and dutifulness will be further consolidated, and upheld in the future," he said.

The army, he said, played a responsible role at the critical juncture of the nation on January 11, 2007 rescuing the country from an anarchic situation.

Besides, he added, the army's role in the present government's activities in curbing serious corruption and crimes have earned appreciation at home and abroad.

Praising the army's role in preparing the voter list with

photographs and national ID cards, he said this project would remain as a milestone in the country's history of democracy and advancement.

The president was also appreciative of the army's role in relief and rehabilitation work during the time of cyclone Sidr. The army, he said, also earned fame for their services in tremor-hit China and cyclone-ravaged Myanmar, apart from their contributions to the UN peacekeeping missions.

Despite economic constraints, initiatives continued to make the armed forces skilled and time-befitting by considering the importance of national defense, he added.

The president also said establishment of the Army Training and Doctrine Command would enhance the standard of overall training and professionalism of the armed forces.

Govt Attorney Service Ordinance challenged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed yesterday with the High Court (HC) challenging the legality of the Government Attorney Service Ordinance 2008.

The petition was filed with the Government Attorney Service Ordinance 2008 in May this year under which the government has set up the government attorney department to deal with cases in courts and perform other duties on behalf of the state.

Two Supreme Court (SC) lawyers Dr Belal Hossain Joy and Advocate KM Zabir filed the writ petition as public interest litigation (PIL) stating that the president can't promulgate such an ordinance during the regime of a caretaker government, since any urgent circumstance for promulgating this kind of ordinance does not exist in the country.

The petitioners said this ordinance will undermine the President Order 6 of 1972, an established system of recruiting and controlling the law officers.

Secretaries of the law ministry and cabinet division, secretary to the president and secretary to the chief adviser were made respondents in the writ petition.

Hearing of the petition may be held next week.

DCC move to fell trees protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Save The Environment Movement (SEM) and Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA) yesterday condemned the move of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) to fell 52 trees at Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara areas in the city.

The leaders of the SEM during a visit near Road-89 of Gulshan Avenue, where about six trees were felled, protested the move by chanting slogans.

Chairman of SEM Abu Naser Khan who led the visit at the area also met DCC Chief Executive Officer Md Alauddin.

Alauddin assured them of taking steps after consulting with environmentalists.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association also issued a letter of concern to the DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and director general of the Department of Environment to this end yesterday.

In the letter they said such activities are against the interest of the people and against the law.

They demanded the authorities stop felling the trees and take alternative initiatives to reduce waterlogging.

The DCC gave work order to fell 52 trees in Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara on July 17 in the name of beautification and improvement of drainage system.

NIKO CASE AGAINST KHALEDA, 10 OTHERS Certified copy of HC stay order Aug 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court dealing with the Niko corruption case against the detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and 10 others yesterday set August 4 for submitting the certified copy of the High Court stay order.

Judge Khandaker Kamal Uz-zaman of Special Court-9, set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises, fixed the date as the defence counsels appealed for time.

As the court sat at 10:05am, defence counsel Advocate Masud Ahmed Talukder told the court that they did not receive the certified copy of HC order and they would submit the copy before the next date

14 lakh residents of southern part of city live with waterlogging

MAHTABI ZAMAN

The 14 lakh residents of Demra, Shyamapur and Jatrabari in the city have been tremendously suffering from waterlogging, loadshedding and lack of adequate bus services.

Lack of adequate bus stoppages at Shanir Akhira, the major gateway of these three areas at the south-eastern periphery of the city, is another headache for the lower, lower middle and middle class people of the area.

Waterlogging in the area is a much talked about issue, but as it seems, it has no remedy.

The area goes under knee-deep water only if it rains for a day.

Jahangir Alam, a banker, said the rickshaw pullers realise twice the due fare to take them to Jatrabari Bus Station since people have to go there to take a bus to their respective offices.

The waterlogged place turns into a breeding ground for mosquitoes and wastes float on that water that many children in the locality often play with.

That's why malaria, diarrhoea and a number of skin diseases are common phenomenon in this area.

Nazma, a worker of a garment factory and a mother of two who is a resident of Rasulpur at Dania, said last week she couldn't go to her workplace for seven days since her daughters were suffering from cold and diarrhoea.

She was afraid that she might be sacked, which would be a blow for the family since then they would have to do only with the income of her rickshaw puller husband.

The roads in the areas lie in so dilapidated a condition that people cannot move without taking a rickshaw.

Three old pumps at Mizmizi with inadequate water pumping

capacity, only three culverts on the Chittagong Road and unplanned development of residential and industrial establishments are responsible for such sufferings, locals said.

On the basis of the recommendation of a technical committee and JICA feasibility study report under Flood Action Plan, in 1992 Water Development Board submitted a project proposal worth Tk 235 crore to the Planning Commission.

The Pre-Enec Committee meeting in 2006 decided to restructure the development project proposal at Tk 12 crore for urgent works of DND project.

Sources in Water Development Board said this year they have a plan worth around Tk six crore that includes some re-excavation work, removal of waste and illegal establishment, repairing pump houses, establishing a trash rack and eight pumps (five cusec per second) and raising mass awareness.

Firoz Ahmed, who appeared in

this year's HSC examination, said during their exams they only got electricity for four to five hours a day.

Mousumi Akter Champa, a Masters student of Jagannath University who resides at Shanir Akhira, said during daytime they experience power outage for six to seven times a day and while the electricity goes off at least twice in the evening.

"The most disgusting thing is such load shedding also happens even when we sleep at night," she added.

There are only two local bus services and around seven counter-based bus services plying this route.

The counter-based buses start from Rugganj and when they reach Shanir Akhira, they are already crowded.

Rashed Ahmed, an honours student of Suhrawardy College residing at Paterbagh, said, "Getting a seat in the bus is a dream."

Locals said if the number of the

buses is increased and some buses start from Shanir Akhira, their suffering will be reduced to a greater extent.

They added that only a small portion of this area is under the city corporation while the major portion is under union parishad.

All sorts of development works are neglected here, they further added.

"We have no local authorities to complain about all these crises," said Mohammad Abdur Rauf Khan, a worker of an NGO who has been residing at Dolaiapar for 20 years.

"Bringing this area under Dhaka City Corporation is a longstanding demand of the people but the government did not pay heed to the demand," said the Convener of Demra-Shyamapur Pani Biddut Sangram Committee Mosleh Uddin Masud.

"The last Union Parishad election was held in 1988," he said.

He also emphasised on activating the previous Union Parishad.



Saddam Market area at Demra in the city.

PHOTO STAR

German investment depends on sustainable political climate

Envoy tells roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

German Ambassador in Dhaka Frank Meyke yesterday said massive bureaucratic tangle, frequent power cut and political uncertainty are the major obstacles intimidating the newcomer of his country to invest in Bangladesh.

"Although German investors are aware that foreign companies find here a legal framework considered to be among the best in Asia in terms of tax holidays, repatriation of profits and fiscal incentives of various kinds, they have so far been rather reluctant to investing in Bangladesh," said the ambassador at a roundtable at Bilia auditorium in the city.

Bilia Director and CEO Wali-ur Rehman presided over the dialogue titled 'Bangladesh-German Relations'.

"German investments in Bangladesh stands at about 50 million Euro only, but there is considerable potential for expansion, if a sustainable political climate congenial to foreign investments is created with democracy and human rights strengthened," the envoy observed.

He said there is a great potential for further German orders for the ship building industry of Bangladesh, and it depends on the quality and timely delivery of 10 ships ordered to Ananda Shipyards and Slipways Ltd, a Bangladeshi shipbuilding company.

The envoy said Bangladesh is still widely perceived as a land of floods, poverty and corruption.

Replying to a question he said Bangladesh will have to prevent the

recurrence of confrontational politics of the past after the coming general election.

In reply to another question he said the state of emergency should be lifted as soon as the situation allows.

"Hartal is an impediment to foreign investment," said Frank Meyke, adding that election boycott is also a negative factor for foreign investment.

He said implementation of party reforms ensuring intra-party democracy and accountability of party financing are very crucial for holding a credible election and ensuring sustainable democracy in Bangladesh.

He said Germany is ready to support the parliamentary election in December with an amount of up to \$ 5,60,000 for information projects to be implemented in cooperation with the UNDP.

Attack on FF by Shibir cadres condemned

DU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of Dhaka University (DU) formed a human chain on the campus yesterday protesting the assault on a freedom fighter by Shibir cadres.

They also demanded exemplary punishment to the Shibir cadres who launched the attack on freedom fighter Sheikh Mohammad Ali Aman and ban on Shibir, the patron of Jatiya Muktiyoddha Parishad, a so-called organisation of the freedom fighters.

Their demands also include ban on communal politics and trial of the war criminals.

Prof Mashiur Rahman of Economics department said Jamaat-Shibir cadres not only insulted a freedom fighter, they have insulted 30 lakh martyrs of the liberation war and the whole nation as well.

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique of Mass Communication and Journalism department said war crime is similar to genocide.

"In order to preserve humanity, trial of the war criminals is a must. This is not any type of reformation - this is a routine task. It is not clear to us, why the caretaker government is not paying attention to this issue," he said.

Former teacher of Sociology Prof KM Saaduddin Ahmed, former DU vice chancellor Prof Shahadat Ali, Social Science Faculty Dean Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Biology Faculty Dean Prof Anwar Hossain, Applied Physics, Electronics and Communication Engineering department Chairman Prof Nim Chandra Bhowmik, AKM Salahuddin of Philosophy, Prof Matiur Rahman, Prof Ahmed Kabir, Prof Nurur Nisar Khan, Associate Professor Nisar Hossain of the Institute of Fine Arts, Sheikh Afzal Hossain and Shibir Bhattacharya were present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) staged a demonstration on the campus demanding trial of the war criminals.

On the other hand, DU students under the banner of 'Juddh-aparadhdier Bichar Mancha' yesterday continued their mass signature collection campaign on the campus demanding trial of the war criminals.



Save The Environment Movement stages a demonstration at Gulshan in the city yesterday protesting a move to fell 52 trees by Dhaka City Corporation.

Factory closed as workers demand better wages

UNB, Savar

Authorities yesterday indefinitely shut down one garment factory at Dhaka Export Processing Zone after its workers started demonstration for better wages in the morning.

AZM Azizar Rahman, general manager of Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority, said they ordered closure of "Shine Fashions" factory after some 2000 workers started demonstration to demand Tk 500 in salary increase.

The factory is owned by Taiwanese investors, the official said. The move came to apparently tame the situation in the sensitive DEPZ area.

Rahman said the factory authorities increased Tk 520 in salary for each worker in May but now the workers demand another spell of salary hike.

Bangladesh ready to send more manpower to Saudi Arabia: CA Saudi Embassy issues 1000 visas everyday

UNB, Dhaka

Saudi Embassy in Dhaka now issues some 1,000 visas everyday to Bangladeshi people, newly appointed Saudi Ambassador Dr Abdullah Bin Naser Al Busairi yesterday apprised Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed as they discussed a wide range of issues.

During a courtesy call on the chief adviser at the CA's office yesterday afternoon, the envoy also informed that the Saudi government by upcoming Ramadan would send all construction materials for building 10,000 dwelling-houses in the coastal belt of Bangladesh.

Saudi Arabia pledged to instantly

construct 10,000 dwellings in the affected areas, according to an official.

The Saudi envoy appreciated Bangladeshi workers' performance in his country, praising them as "honest, sincere and active".

The chief adviser expressed gratitude as Saudi Arabia is employing and hosting about 1.7 million Bangladeshi workers who are contributing to economic development of both the countries.

"Bangladesh is ready to provide more semi-skilled and skilled manpower to Saudi Arab," he told the diplomat.

He informed that the government is now imparting orientation to upgrade status of Bangladeshi work-

ers as well as holding briefing session on laws, rules and regulations, custom and tradition of the manpower-export-destination countries.

He said highly skilled professionals like physicians, teachers, paramedics and accountants are also working in Saudi Arabia.

The CA noted that trade relations between the two countries should further expand and Saudi Arab could import world-class pharmaceutical products from Bangladesh with competitive price as well as import apparels.

He appreciated Saudi Arabia's financial assistance from Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) in infrastructure development in Bangladesh.

He invited the Saudi King through

the ambassador, saying that high-level visit helps people-to-people contact and increases the connectivity.

He lauded the King's role in the recent holding of interfaith dialogue in Spain, which he said would contribute towards a "tolerant and peaceful world at this critical juncture of time".

The matter of import of urea fertiliser by Bangladesh from Saudi Arabia and long-term agreement in this regard was also discussed during the meeting.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim, who was present at the meeting, briefed newsmen about the talks. Secretary of CA's office Kazi Aminul Islam was also present at the meeting.



German Ambassador Frank Meyke speaks at a roundtable at Bilia auditorium in the city yesterday while Wali-ur Rehman looks on.

PHOTO STAR

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU HAD SO MUCH FUN?

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