

LAW AND ORDER REVIEWED

'Nobody will be allowed to destabilise campuses'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobody will be allowed to destabilise the congenial atmosphere of educational institutions, said State Minister for Home Tajim Ahmed Shohel Taj yesterday.

He was talking to newsmen after a meeting at Rajarbagh Police Telecom auditorium in the city.

The view exchange meeting was attended by Home Minister Sahara Khatun, State Minister for Home Shohel Taj and police high-ups amid unrests in different educational institutions.

Home Secretary Abdul Karim, Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad, Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Naim Ahmed, Chief of Special Branch of Police Baharul Alam

and high officials of Rapid Action Battalion were also present at the meeting which was the first of its kind with the members of law enforcement agencies after the new government assumes its office.

"We are committed to uphold law and order and ensure peace in the society. Tough action will be taken against the trouble makers irrespective of their party affiliation," said the state minister.

Addressing the meeting Sahara Khatun stressed the need for adopting new technique and modern training for police members to cope with the increasing number of crimes that include cyber-crime and trans-national crime as the criminals are equipped with modern equipment and technique.

Lauding the police role in holding free, fair and impartial national election, she said police should be the friend of people and their protector from criminals to revive their past glory.

"We feel hurt when we come to know that a police gets involved with criminal activities," she said, adding, "We must find out the causes behind such incidents instead of punishing them only."

She assured police of increasing their logistic supports and strengthening of community policing system across the country.

The home minister asked police to be careful while discharging their duties so that human rights are not violated.

She stressed on increasing police ration and their salary

so that police can function smoothly.

Shohel Taj said, "Your masters are not political leaders, your masters are the people of the country."

He termed police as the backbone of the nation as they play the vital role in maintaining law and order which is a precondition to any development.

Acknowledging the sufferings of police, he said it is inhuman when a police constable sleeps on floor after his 16-hour duty a day.

"To have something good from policemen, the state also should do something for them," he added.

Shohel Taj said his government will bring reforms in police department as mentioned in their election manifesto.



US Ambassador James F Moriarty calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

UN disturbed by Gaza violence

Resident coordinator in Dhaka says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations (UN) is shocked by the unrelenting Israeli attacks on Gaza, the UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Renata Lok Dessallien said yesterday.

"We are deeply disturbed by the indiscriminate violence in Gaza," the UN envoy told reporters after attending a meeting with Home Minister Sahara Khatun and State Minister for Home Affairs Tajim Ahmed Shohel Taj at the ministry.

As the reporters raised the question about the failure of the UN while many innocent people are being killed and the UN offices are being attacked in Gaza, Renata said: "The UN is a collective work of all member states and the UN only does what the member states allow it to do."

She expressed UN's helplessness about the Israeli attacks and unabated killings of Palestinians, saying that the attack on UN office in Gaza was 'devastating'.

Renata said that she exchanged views on human security, national security and the human security level in Bangladesh with the ministers in the meeting.

Indian FM due Feb 8

BSS, Dhaka

Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee will arrive here on a two-day visit on February 8.

"He will be in Dhaka on a two-day visit and it is basically a goodwill tour" after the installation of the new government in Bangladesh, Foreign Secretary Mohammad Touhid Hossain told journalists at his office yesterday.

He said Pranab will hold talks with Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni and make a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

New DU VC calls on PM

UNB, Dhaka

Newly appointed Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed various matters related to educational and infrastructural development of Dhaka University.

"I also discussed with the PM how skilled human resources can be created in line with the government's plan for building up Bangladesh as a modern digital country by 2021," he said.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Kader, father of Prof Dr AQM Sirajul Islam, passed away at the age of 90, says a press release.

Health Minister Prof Dr AFM Ruhul Haque expressed deep shock at his death.

Deen Mohammad

DU CORRESPONDENT

Deen Mohammad, former vice president of Mirpur Thana Awami League, passed away due to cancer at a city hospital on Saturday at the age of 70, says a press release.

He left behind three sons and six daughters to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard in Mirpur. Home Minister Advocate Sahara Khatun condoled the death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Akhtari Khanam, wife of late Maqsood Ahmed Choudhury. She passed away on this day in 2007.

Prof Dr Motiar Rahaman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 20th death anniversary of Prof Dr Motiar Rahaman, former head of department of forensic medicine of Sir Salimullah Medical College, was observed yesterday, says a press release.

LAND ACQUISITION FOR PADMA BRIDGE

'Landowners to get due compensation'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Land Minister Rezaul Karim Hira yesterday said the landowners from whom the government would acquire lands to build the Padma Bridge will get

proper compensation.

In his first monthly coordination meeting at the ministry auditorium, the minister instructed his officials to take necessary steps regarding the matter.

"All know what happened in the past. I won't tolerate any percentage and bribery in this regard. We have to ensure proper compensation for all landowners," he said, asking officials to work as a service provider so that people do not suffer.

Land Secretary Abu Md Moniruzzaman Khan, Land Reform Department Chairman Md Mainul Islam and Land Appeal Department Chairman Md Ashraf Maqbul also took part in the meeting.

The government is committed to building the bridge by 2011 for which huge quantity of land will be needed. The minister instructed the officials to find out the lands which were acquired by different ministries for different purposes earlier and did not use them.

"If any ministry does not use the particular land for the very purpose they took it for, we can use it in different purposes," he said and asked the officials to maintain proper accounts of khas (fallow) lands and vested properties so that nobody can misuse them.

The minister further said the ministry will find out the land grabbers and recover the lands from them and distribute them among the landless people.

He also instructed to resolve all the land-related disputes as soon as possible and make a chart of all kinds of wetlands, markets, fish projects and salt plants and tea gardens owned by the law ministry.

Sources said a total of 28 thousand wetlands, 30 thousand markets, 156 tea gardens the land ministry leased out to people through open tenders. The officials informed the minister that they are working on making a new guideline to lease out those properties of the ministry.

Right now, more than 10,000 land-related cases are pending in the high courts and more than 50,000 cases are pending in the judges courts which were filed against the government.

Hira gave a directive to resolve the cases and recover all government lands by appointing competent lawyers for the ministry, if necessary.

Citing the commitment of the prime minister to make a digital Bangladesh by 2021, the minister expressed his desire to modernise all sorts of land surveys and land records.

He also asked the officials to work on demarking international borders with India and Myanmar as well as the internal upazila and mouza border pillars.

Criminal shot dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A most wanted criminal was gunned down by one of his accomplices at Manda in the city yesterday.

The dead was identified as Alamgir Hossain, 35, of Piar Ali Lane at Manda in Sabujbagh.

Shohely Alamgir, wife of Alamgir, alleged that Shakil, a friend of Alamgir, shot him at around 10.30am. He called Alamgir over cell phone to go to a tea stall near Cicely Garment at Mothertek where he shot him.

Witnesses said Alamgir and Shakil locked into a scuffle while they were taking tea at the tea stall.

At one stage Shakil shot Alamgir at his head and chest leaving him seriously injured.

Locals rushed him to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where on duty doctor declared him dead.

Police said Alamgir was wanted in several murder, abduction and extortion cases in different police stations in the city.

Police seized the motorbike which Alamgir used to go there and two mobile sets from the spot of occurrence.

NITOR nurses clash: 10 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 nurses were injured during a clash between pro-BNP and pro-Awami League nurses over occupying the trade union office at National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR) yesterday.

Hospital sources said over hundred diploma nurses scuffled over the possession of Diploma Nurses' Association office on the first floor of the hospital in the afternoon. They also chased each other, leaving at least 10 nurses injured.

Hospital authorities with the help of police brought the situation under control after an effort of 30 minutes, hospital sources said.

A nurse said tenure of the pro-BNP elected committee ended during the caretaker government. The clash began when the pro-AL nurses tried to occupy the office.

Combined move a must to cut poverty

Says Dr Atiur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unnayan Shamannay Chairman Dr Atiur Rahman yesterday said a combined move, ranging from the government and private sector, is necessary to eradicate poverty from the country by 2015.

"A joint-venture move combining the efforts by the government and the private sector is required to eradicate poverty and reach the aim of Millennium Development Goal (MDG)," he added.

"Currently, there are 10 percent extreme poor, who earn Tk 16 to Tk 22 per day and are lacking food and shelter in the country, need extra attention from the government," he said, adding: "The private sector should also join hands with the government to perform social duties."

Dr Atiur was speaking at a press conference organised by Shiree, an initiative supported by the Development for

International Development (DFID) on the British Council premises in the city.

Shiree organised a Gyan Mela (knowledge fair) to exchange ideas and information with NGOs on recently launched funding scheme 'Innovations Fund'.

Under the eight-year project, Shiree will make grants of up to 25 million pound available to qualified NGOs to generate assets, improve incomes, ensure food security and decrease donor dependency.

Chief Executive Officer of Shiree Azim Manjil said the fund would be utilised to eradicate extreme poverty in both rural and urban areas.

"The main focus for us is the economic empowerment. We seek to fund smaller scale creative models that would come from the NGOs through a competitive process," he added.

Project Director of Shiree Md Shahidullah and Gender Specialist Shamima Parveen also spoke at the programme.

CG's ORDINANCES

Expert body finalises recommendations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The expert committee, formed to review the ordinances promulgated by the military-backed caretaker government (CG), has finalised its recommendations to be placed at the cabinet meeting.

"The ordinances have been divided into three categories, some are to be placed as bill, some are to be discussed whether to be accepted or not and the rests will be left to be repealed," said Law, Justice and

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed yesterday.

"But all of them will have to be placed in parliament," he said.

"The cabinet will take the formal decision on the committee's recommendations," said the minister at a briefing at the ministry conference room after the committee meeting.

"We have reviewed a total of 122 ordinances and all the members unanimously made the recommendations," he

added.

According to the constitution, all the ordinances have to be placed at the first session of parliament. If the bills are not ratified in parliament, the ordinances will be automatically repealed.

When asked whether the ordinances are going to be placed at the cabinet meeting to be held today, the minister said, "Not necessary."

Senior lawyers Barrister Rafique-ul-Huq, Advocate Mahmudul Islam, Dr M Zahir, Barrister Azmalul Hossain and Dr Lawiq Newaz, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, Barrister Sheikh Fazle Nur Taposh attended the meeting with the law minister in the chair.

Appeal for help

METRO DESK

Haji Md Abu Hanif, 42, who hails from Rupsha of Khulna, has been suffering from stomach cancer for long, says a press release.

He is currently under treatment of Dr Lutfunur at Mohakhali Cancer Hospital in the city.

The expensive treatment for the deadly disease has rendered Hanif almost a destitute with a family of three children and wife.

He was a poorly paid imam of a mosque at Daudkandi in Comilla, and now out of work.

According to doctor, Hanif needs at least Tk 2 lakh more for his treatment.

So he has appealed to all generous and wealthy people of the society for financial assistance.

Contributions can be sent to Haji Md Abu Hanif, Savings Account No 9426, Islami Bank Ltd, Paltan Branch, Dhaka.

Md Kamal Uddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Kamal Uddin, an assistant rural development officer of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), has been suffering from kidney complications since January 2006, says a press release.

Kamal underwent treatment at PG Hospital and CMC Vellore Hospital in India and sold all his properties to bear the treatment costs.

Doctors say he requires immediate kidney transplantation which will cost him around Tk 400,000.

As Kamal is unable to manage such a big amount of money, he has appealed to well-to-do people for financial assistance so that he can continue his treatment and live a normal life again.

Contributions can be sent to Savings Account No 7420-2, Agrani Bank, Wasa Branch, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka.

Interested persons can also contact him at 01816812068 and 01718859435.

2 secretaries made OSD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government in an important decision yesterday made two secretaries and director general of Islamic Foundation officer on special duty (OSD), says an official announcement.

The OSD officials include Jute and Textile Secretary Md Abdur Rashid Sarkar, Land Secretary Abu Md Moniruzzaman and Bangladesh Islamic Foundation DG (Additional Secretary) Md Fazlur Rahman.

The reasons behind making the officials OSD could not be known. Their services have been placed under the establishment ministry.

POLICE ADMIN In its first move after assuming office, the government also reshuffled in the root level of police administration yesterday with approval from the Election Commission (EC).

As per the reshuffle, an assistant superintendent of police and five inspectors have been transferred, while 21 sub-inspectors were promoted to inspector posts and given new postings.

According to the Local Government (Upazila Parishad) Election Rules-2008, the government will not be able to transfer DC, SP UNO and officials working under them in the respective upazilas without any consultation with the EC from the date of declaration of polls schedule to 15 days after announcement of the results.

The police headquarters wrote a letter to the EC informing the transfer and promotion and the EC yesterday gave the permission.

BSMMU A total of six administrative employees of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) were made OSD yesterday that led to the government's latest development in the administrative shake-up.

Those who were made OSD include deputy registrars FM Rafikul Islam Bachchu and Dr Saifuddin Nisar Ahmed, assistant superintendents Dr Hasnat Ahsan Shumon and Dr Mizanur Rahman and assistant directors (finance and accounting) Khondoker Shafikul Hasan and Nasiruddin Bhuiyan.

BSMMU Vice Chancellor Prof Nazrul Islam said the authorities found it important to make them OSD for the sake of BSMMU. So, such a decision was taken under the university regulation.

"The steps were taken to bring a qualitative change in the university," he added.

WEATHER TODAY

Light to moderate fog likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country having chances of light rain or drizzle at one or two places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Mymensingh and Tangail in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during mid night till morning, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged night temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 29.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and lowest 10.2 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:36pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	27.6	14.5	78	60
Chittagong	27.2	13.5	78	79
Rajshahi	26.2	12.8	97	78
Khulna	27.0	15.3	90	72
Barisal	27.6	12.9	95	76
Sylhet	29.0	15.7	68	55
Cox's Bazar	28.3	14.7	61	86

DHAKA TODAY

Dialogue

Centre for Policy Dialogue organises a dialogue on 'Boro production: Immediate tasks for the newly elected government'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 2:45pm.

View exchange meet

CCCI organises a view exchange meeting on 'The best of Bangladesh is business'. Venue: CCCI auditorium. Time: 12:15pm.

Human chain

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association will form a human chain protesting genocide in Gaza. Venue: In front of National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Udichi protest

Bangladesh Udichi Shipigosthi will for a human chain and cultural programme protesting Israeli genocide in Gaza. Venue: Mukhtangan. Time: 4:30pm.