

JS body recommends abolition of post of administrator at UP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary standing committee yesterday finalised its recommendation for deleting the provision of appointing government administrators at the union parishads terming the provision undemocratic and unconstitutional.

The parliamentary body on local government, rural development and cooperatives ministry also recommended to drop the provision of submitting affidavit of the contestants containing their personal information and wealth statement saying that many poor and less educated candi-

dates will not be able to submit affidavits due to its complex formalities and lack of lawyers at the union level.

It also recommended loan and tax defaulters eligible for contesting the union parishad elections saying that many people are considered defaulters without correct

information.

The committee made the recommendations while finalising the scrutiny of a bill titled 'Local Government (Union Parishad) Bill-2009' which is likely to be placed in the House in the current session for its passage.

"The committee unanimously recommended to drop the present provision as different governments in the past deprived the elected members by appointing administrator," Advocate Md Rahmat Ali, chairman of the standing committee, told reporters after the meeting at the parliament building complex.

"We have also recommended that there will be a panel of chairman comprising three elected members including a woman and the second person will act as chairman if the parishad members bring no-confidence charge against him," he said.

Different successive governments in the past misused the provision of appointing government administrator to fulfill their interests," M O n o w a r H o s s a i n Chowdhury, a member of the standing committee, told The Daily Star.

Regarding affidavit he said, "There are about 50 thousand posts in union parishads and the total number of contestant may be about 2.5 lakh if five people submit nomination papers against each post. This number is so high that the contestants may not find so many lawyers to do the task of submitting affidavit."

The committee also recommended that a prospective candidate of the union parishad election should get an opportunity for rescheduling his/her loans prior to the day of submitting nomination paper.

The present provision shows that a candidate will be disqualified if he/she is considered as loan defaulter prior to one year of the date of submitting the nomination paper.

BANGABANDHU MURDER
No impediment to appeal hearing Oct 5
Says chief counsel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Counsel of Bangabandhu murder case Anisul Haq yesterday said there is no impediment to appeal hearing of the case on October 5 despite filing of a petition regarding the delayed submission of concise statement.

"The Chief Justice will form a bench before October 5 for the hearing," he told reporters after meeting Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed at his Secretariat office in the afternoon.

Defence lawyers earlier filed a petition to the chief justice as the concise statement of the case was not filed within 30 days as directed by the High Court. They appealed for the hearing on this matter before the hearing of Bangabandhu murder case begins.

"This will not be a problem holding the hearing of the case," Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told the reporters.

He said delay in bringing documents from one of the fugitives accused in Bangabandhu murder case from the United States delayed the submission of the concise statement to the court.

The chief counsel along with Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and some other lawyers met Shafique and State Minister for law Qamrul Islam to discuss the latest situation before the hearing resumes next week.

The Supreme Court yesterday fixed October 5 for hearing on the appeals in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman assassination case.

On August 15 of 1975, Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was killed along with most of his family members by a band of disgruntled army men.



President Zillur Rahman poses for photograph with the delegates of Royal College of Defence Studies of the UK at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 5)

Jalil should be excused as he is sick: Suranjit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Veteran Awami League (AL) leader Suranjit Sengupta yesterday said the much-talked-about Abdul Jalil issue should not be continued further as the latter has sought apology for his statements.

"As he [Jalil] has said that he is sick and has admitted his faults, he should be excused," said Suranjit, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on law, justice and parliamentary affairs, while addressing a press briefing at the media centre of Sangsad Bhaban.

On Tuesday in London, Jalil said he still suffers from the trauma caused by torture by the military intelligence agency Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) during detention and blamed the mental state for the testy remarks he made while giving interview with London-based Bangla TV.

In an interview with the TV recently, the former AL general secretary said the party's landslide victory in the December 29 parliamentary election came through an "understanding".

His remark triggered criticism in and outside the ruling

party, but drew kudos from the opposition BNP.

In her first reaction to Jalil's remarks on the election, Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina has termed it "irrelevant", and said he should have resigned as a lawmaker before raising any question about the polls in which he also was elected.

Referring to Jalil's statements that he is sorry for his remarks about the party and the election, Suranjit said according to the law, if anyone seeks pardon after committing crime, law too excuses the person.

As Jalil has become repented for his remarks, the matter should be ended here, opined Suranjit who has also been made AL's advisory council member along with Jalil, among others.

Suranjit said as an aged person Jalil could not understand what he told, adding that Jalil's statements on the election have shaken the nation as the election was held in a freest and fairest manner.

The AL leader hoped that the party president would forgive Jalil considering his contribution to and sacrifices for the party for decades.

AL presidium member

Obaidul Quader, however, said Abdul Jalil could be excused only if he seeks pardon in black and white.

But before that he must be show-caused as he has made both the party and government embarrassed and created a way for the opposition to criticise the government, party and election, the AL policymaker told The Daily Star.

"If he [Jalil] clarifies his position and says sorry in black and white, the party would decide his fate," said Quader, adding that it is no more acceptable that a party lawmaker who is also the chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on commerce ministry and the member of AL advisory council would make one after another statements embarrassing the party, its chief and the government.

Quader, who was Jalil's deputy during the 2002 and 2009 AL central committee, observed that the former general secretary violated grossly the party constitution by questioning the credibility of the freest and fairest election and speaking against the party president.

'78 killed in crossfire in 9 months'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 78 people were killed in crossfire, 80 BDR men died after joining offices and 31 women fell victims of fatwa across the country in the last nine months, revealed a report of Ain O Salish Kendra yesterday, says a press release.

The report was prepared based on news on crossfire, fatwa, torture, death in custody and other incidents published in different national dailies during the time.

It also said 37 people were killed in police custody and 64 domestic helps fell victims different types of violence.

Three journalists were killed, cases filed against 47 journalists, and 16 received death threats and 90 journalists fell victims of harassment in different ways, the report said.

Sohel Taj didn't meet Hasina in US

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) lawmaker Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj did not meet Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina while she was in the United States from September 22 to 29.

Sources in the US said Sohel Taj, who resigned from the post of state minister for home affairs on May 31 about six months after assuming office, did not meet the prime minister out of 'aggravation'.

Although the US chapter AL organised a reception to the premier and an indoor rally which was attended by several hundred party leaders a couple of days ago, Sohel Taj did not join any of the programmes there, sources added.

Talking to The Daily Star, one of the leaders of the US unit AL said the AL lawmaker, who has been staying in the US with his family since June 10, has also been keeping distance in attending political programmes there and solely giving time to his family.

He could not be contacted for his comments after repeated attempts.

Being frustrated, Sohel Taj, son of first prime minister of the country Tajuddin Ahmed, tendered his resignation as he was under pressure from influential party leaders as they pursued him to serving their own interests and lobbied for posts, promotions and undue privileges of police officials, according to sources.

From the date of his resignation, the government has been saying that the state minister is on leave.

In an interview with The Daily Star on July 20 from his Maryland residence in the US, Sohel Taj said he stood down as the state minister so that his dignity and principles could survive intact.

Asked about the reasons behind his resignation, he said, "I can't tell you why. All I can say is things did not work out the way I wanted. Now I don't want to embarrass anyone. I would rather wish everyone best of luck."

Asked when he would come back, Sohel Taj said he would come back to the country when he would wish.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Kazi Jalal Uddin Ahmed, former engineer of Civil Aviation Authorities of Bangladesh now expatriate to the USA, passed away due to cancer at Columbus, Ohio, USA on September 21 at the age of 58, says a press release.

He left behind his parents, wife, son, daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His body will arrive today and be buried at his family graveyard in Madaripur tomorrow.

M Shamsul Alam

METRO DESK

M Shamsul Alam, a chartered accountant, passed away due to respiratory failure yesterday at the age of 75, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, son, and daughter to mourn his death.

He was buried at Banani graveyard.

His qulshwani will be held after Asr prayers tomorrow at his residence (Rose Corner, 22/1 Sree School Street, Sonargaon Road, Hatirpool) in the city.

Sahara pledges to build modern police force

Opens 39th DMP station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday said the government would take steps to resolve manpower, accommodation and transport crisis of police forces to make it an efficient one.

She said the previous government has left the police forces with old and ragged transport facilities besides the accommodation and manpower crisis.

This government is committed to make the force a versatile one and would solve its problems soon.

The minister was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of new Bangshal Police Station under Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday at the Sheikh Fazlul Karim Community Center on English Road in Old Dhaka.

DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haque presided over the function.

With the new one, the number of police stations under DMP rose to 39.

Sahara said the police forces would be equipped with modern arms and training would be provided to combat cyber crimes.

She urged the police personnel to be professional and show honour to the human rights and democratic norms.

The minister also claimed that the law and order situation was under control during the Eid-ul-Fitr and Durga Puja.

Speaking as special guest at the ceremony, Shamsul Haque Tuku, state minister for home ministry, said police forces are not influenced politically like the way it was done in the past.

Police should work independently to deliver the best service, he said.

The new police station will cover part of city corporation's ward 67, 68 and the whole vicinity of ward 69, 70 and 71.

State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Kamrul Islam, lawmakers Mizanur Rahman Khan Dipu, Mostafa Jalal Mahiuddin, Inspector General of Police Nur Muhammad also spoke on the occasion.



Former adviser to a caretaker government Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Matin emerges from the temporary office of Anti-Corruption Commission at the boardroom of Chittagong Port yesterday. (Story on Page 1)



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy falls at places in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:46pm today and rises at 6:51am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Majdee Court and lowest 23.9 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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	34.2	26.8	73	71
Chittagong	33.4	24.7	72	81
Rajshahi	34.4	24.5	82	71
Khulna	34.0	26.8	63	73
Barisal	33.2	26.3	71	77
Sylhet	35.4	25.6	69	70
Cox's Bazar	33.0	25.2	67	80