

'72 constitution to be restored with changes

PM tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliament yesterday had an unscheduled discussion on Constitution Day with a call for restoring the 1972 constitution to uphold the spirit of liberation war, and to establish a secular democratic society.

Prior to the discussion, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, however, told the House that the constitution of 1972 should be restored after bringing some amendments to it.

"We will consider sensitive issues while amending the constitution," she added without any further detail.

Participating in the discussion that began after the break for maghrib prayers, lawmakers said the original constitution of 1972 lost its basic structure as the military ruler following the August 15, 1975 regime change amended it to legitimise the takeover.

The discussants demanded restoration of the 1972 constitution and hoped that the Appellate Division of Supreme Court will uphold the High Court verdict that paved the way for restoration of the original constitution.

The issue was raised in the afternoon when Speaker Abdul Hamid at the beginning

of the prime minister's question-answer hour informed the House that the country's constitution had been adopted by the erstwhile constituent assembly on November 4, 1972.

"Today is the constitution's adaptation day. A very few of the signatories are still alive and are members of the current parliament, I happen to be one of them," Hamid added.

Earlier, replying to lawmakers' queries in the afternoon, the premier said the constitution of 1972 reflected the people's desire after the liberation war. But unfortunately after 1975, unconstitutional forces amended the constitution abruptly to legitimise their power grab.

She said the country was pushed back through the violation of the constitution, otherwise the country would have seen more progress, and the nation would have stood with its head high in the world community.

After the break, the sitting resumed with Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali in the chair. The deputy speaker urged disposal of call attention notices and said a discussion on Constitution Day would go on from that point on due to demands of many lawmak-

ers.

Then the unscheduled discussion began and lasted over an hour and a half. Nine ruling Awami League lawmakers including Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury participated in the discussion.

Awami League lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta said the High Court already delivered a historic verdict for restoration of the constitution of 1972.

"Now an appeal against the High Court verdict is pending with the Appellate Division of Supreme Court. We hope, the Appellate Division will soon adjudicate the appeal upholding the High Court verdict," he added.

No Jatiya Party lawmaker participated in the discussion. Former military ruler HM Ershad, who founded Jatiya Party which is now a component of the AL-led ruling alliance, had amended the constitution in an unconstitutional way to legitimise his military rule.

At the end of the discussion, the speaker said he had actually forgotten that yesterday was Constitution Day, but prior to the day's sitting, he was reminded of it which prompted him to speak about it in the House.



Prof Ajoy Roy speaks at a roundtable on trial of war criminals at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are Lt Gen (Retd) Harun-ur Rashid, Ramendu Majumder and Nasiruddin Yousuf. Sammilita Sangskritik Jote organised the event.

CREATIVE QUESTION METHOD

Due part of selected subjects to be published in July

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A due part with five sample questions at the end of each chapter in each selected creative subject for class VI to IX will be published in July next as part of the 'creative question method' in academic year 2011.

The decision was taken at a special meeting of the creative question method evaluation and advisory committee at the education ministry yesterday with Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid presided in the chair.

Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Education Secretary Syed Ataur Rahman, Dr M Ibrahim, Prof Safiuddin Ahmed, Project Director of Secondary Education Sector Development Project Ratan Roy, member of National Curriculum and Textbook Board Prof Haspia Bashir Ullah were present.

The due part will be published in July by including five creative questions at the end of each chapter of all subjects from class VI to VIII while Bangla, religion, geography, general science, business studies, social science and chemistry of class IX, meeting sources said.

The committee will monitor and accomplish the task, they said, adding that it was decided in the meeting to distribute a manual book on the creative method with easy language to all schools of the country.

The government decided to introduce the much-talked-about creative question method from the next SSC examinations in 2010 by phases.

Jagannath Hall Alumni Assoc confce Dec 18

BSS, Dhaka

The conference of Jagannath Hall Alumni Association will be held on December 18 at Nabab Naowab Ali Senate Bhaban at Dhaka University, says a press release.

Interested former students of the hall have been requested to register their names by November 20. Registration forms and other information will be available at the provost office of Jagannath Hall.

3RD PHASE LOTTERY

283 get Rajuk plots at Purbachal, Uttara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) yesterday announced the names of 283 plot winners of the third phase lotteries for Purbachal New Town Project and Uttara Model Town Project.

Of the total, the names of 55 winners were picked in one category - journalist -- for Purbachal project while the rest for Uttara project.

Rajuk, however, did not hold lotteries for 60 plots at Purbachal and Uttara (55 plots at Purbachal and five plots at Uttara) in journalist category as the plots have been reserved for distribution under political consideration.

The formal draw of the lotteries for Purbachal and Uttara plots was held at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city.

There were seven categories -- journalist, foreign exchange earner, freedom fighter, artist/sportsperson, industrialist and businessman, private jobholder, lawyer and justice -- for Uttara project.

This was the third round draw for Purbachal plots this year. The previous two were held on September 16 and October 10.

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan said, "We held

the draw on 50 percent plots based on the suggestions of journalist leaders and 50 percent more plots will be distributed through seniority and salary scale basis."

"There were different groups of journalists many of them wanted lottery and many other wanted to distribute plots through seniority and salary scale basis. That's why, we held lotteries on 50 percent plots in this category," he added.

Ministers, state ministers and lawmakers will be given plots directly while government jobholders, autonomous organisations jobholders and defence forces will get plots based on seniority and salary structure of the applicants.

The state minister said the names of the plot winners for the remaining categories under two projects will be given by this month.

Meanwhile, the High Court (HC) yesterday directed the government and the Rajuk authorities to keep plots at Uttara 3rd phase reserved for 130 people whose allotments were cancelled during the caretaker government.

The HC bench of Justice Shahidul Islam and Justice Syeda Afzar Jahan passed the order upon applications filed by five people whose plots were cancelled.

RMG workers announce agitation programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Garments Workers' Unity Forum yesterday announced a two-month agitation programme to press home their seven-point demand, including punishment to the killers of the workers at Nippon Garments in Tongi.

The announcement came from a press conference at its central office in the city, said a press release.

As part of the demonstration programme, workers will form a human chain at Muktangan in the city and elsewhere in the country tomorrow.

They also threatened to go for tougher agitations if their demands are not met by the next two months.

The demands include paying Tk 1 lakh to the family of each of the deceased workers as compensation, withdrawal of all the cases filed against garments workers across the country, implementation of rights of trade union by the next three months, fixing Tk 5,000 as the minimum wage for the garments workers, cancellation of the Labour Act-2006 and implementation of tripartite agreement signed in 2006.

Mosharrar Hossain Mishu, president of the organisation, read out the written statement, while General Secretary Kamal Debnath and other leaders were present at the press conference.

Meanwhile, Mishu and Md Baharane Sultan Bahar, president of Jago Bangladesh Garments Sramik Federation, received death threats over mobile phone yesterday.

They have been told to quit the leadership of the workers' bodies or else get ready for dire consequences.

Bangladeshi journo wins int'l award

METRO DESK



Raihan M Chowdhury, special correspondent of The Financial Express, has become 'first runner-up' in the climate change adaptation category of Tokyo-based Developing Asia Journalism Awards 2009, says a press release.

The article titled 'Facing the natural disasters' was published in the newspaper's July 15 issue.

The other three categories were poverty impact of the global financial crisis, government responses to the global financial crisis and infrastructure development.

There were 14 prizes among the 22 finalists for the four thematic categories in this year's competition initiated by Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI).

The winners were selected from more than 200 entries from across ADB's developing member countries by a distinguished panel of four independent judges.



Newly appointed Additional Judges of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court pose for photograph with President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

Japan to help address traffic congestion

Says envoy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japanese Ambassador Tamotsu Shinotsuka yesterday said his country would assist Bangladesh in addressing the issue of nagging traffic congestion.

"Our government is giving importance to this issue," he said at a 'Meet the Reporters' session organised by Dhaka Reporters' Unity at its auditorium in the city.

It is a complex issue, the envoy said, adding that Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) has been conducting a feasibility study and that experts from Tokyo have already come to Bangladesh to find out a solution to the problem.

Mentioning that Tokyo is also facing the same problem, he said, "Flyover, underground rail and sky-train are not the only solution to this problem. We should take into consideration various aspects and elements, including improving traffic rules and management."

"We have to address the issue in a holistic and comprehensive manner," he said. "We will continue to support and cooperate with the govern-

ment of Bangladesh in its efforts to solve the problem."

Mentioning that Japan is the largest donor to Bangladesh, the ambassador said the accumulated total amount of assistance to Bangladesh stands at \$10 billion, which is larger than the combined assistance provided by the United States and the United Kingdom.

He also said Japan considers Bangladesh a potential destination of its relocated production bases and investment.

"Now our investors are trying to shift production bases to other countries, including Bangladesh," he said.

Bangladesh is one of the promising countries and appearing as attractive destinations for Japanese businesses, particularly in textile and garment sector.

"You have excellent human resources and labour forces which are cheaper than in Thailand, Vietnam and China," he pointed out.

He also said the political situation seemed to be stable in Bangladesh after the last year's general election, which can attract investment, and that the government is doing

quite a good job.

About assistance for the proposed Padma bridge, the envoy said the bridge is one of their priorities after the Jamuna Bridge.

Japan has already assisted in detailed study conducted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and will also cooperate in providing long-term assistance for it, he added.

The Japanese government has several priority areas, including infrastructure, human resources and socio-economic development, he said, adding that they also assist Bangladesh in its efforts to build power plants.

The ambassador said 3,00,000 foreign students, including Bangladeshis, would be allowed to study in Japan by 2020.

Currently, more than 1,600 Bangladeshi students are studying in Japan, he added.

Japan also has been assisting Bangladesh in fighting natural calamities and helped build cyclone centres, he said.

DRU President Shamim Ahmad presided over the programme and its General Secretary Pathik Saha also spoke.

Only 14pc migrant workers get treatment cost: Study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only 14 percent of male Bangladeshi migrant workers get medical assistance from the employers, though 70 percent of them have health problems, revealed a study yesterday.

"Seventy percent of the surveyed migrants had minor health problems in destination countries and around eight percent of them received treatment cost from their employers, whereas six percent were covered by health insurance schemes," it noted.

The study on 'migrants' health', presented at a seminar at a convention centre in the city, was conducted by International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) with the support of International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

The study was conducted in seven unions of Mirersara in Chittagong among 200 low-skilled migrants and 200 potential migrants, said Dr Tracey Koehlmoo, health

system scientist of ICDDR,B while presenting the study, says an IOM release.

Majority of the migrants were between 28 and 47 years and more than 85 were married. Almost half of the migrants surveyed suffer from a variety of mental health problems irrespective of migration and about 60 percent experienced some kinds of workplace injuries.

Thirty percent of the migrants and 28 percent of the potential migrants had sex with women other than their wives. Of them, only five percent of the migrants used condoms during their last sexual intercourse. Of those migrants who had sex with sex workers, 9 percent referred to events before migration while 17 percent had sex when they were abroad.

The investigation found that both migrants and potential migrants have poor knowledge on the issues of HIV/AIDS and very low perception on the risk of any infection.

"In order to enhance the

productivity of Bangladeshi workers abroad, greater policy intervention and social awareness are needed on their health requirements and health hazards," said Rabab Fatima, IOM regional representative for South Asia.

Speakers at the seminar said migration health interventions need to be mainstreamed in migration and health policies in the country and that proper awareness on health issues before migration and health services for returned migrants are their rights and have to be provided by both the government and private actors working on migration.

"As part of its election commitment, the government is committed to reaching health services on the doorstep of people, including migrants and potential migrants," said Mozibur Rahman Fakir, state minister for health.

Discharge duties neutrally

President urges judges

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the judges to neutrally discharge their duties entrusted upon them under the present independent judicial system to establish the rule of law in the country.

He made the call when a nine-member delegation of the newly appointed Additional Judges of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court led by Justice M Moazzem Hossain met him at Bangabhaban.

During the meeting, Zillur said the judges could play a significant role in establishing the rights of the citizens, as the higher court is the last place for their protection.

The additional judges expressed their deep gratitude to the president for giving them the appointment and sought his cooperation in discharging their duties.

Secretaries to the President's Office and concerned officers of the High Court Division were present at the meeting.

Debate Warriors launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned debaters were accorded a reception at the launching ceremony of Bangladesh Debate Warriors on the United International University campus in the city recently.

Debate Warriors, a new platform for debaters, also conferred 'Lifetime Achievement Award' on Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, and 'Honorary award' on debater and media personality Abdun Noor Tushar and Prof Syed Munir Khasru of the Institute of Business Administration for their outstanding contribution to the debating arena.

Drisy Chittagong, an organisation, received 'Honorary Award' as the best debating organisation at the programme.

Educationist Prof Md Mahbubur Rahman presided over the ceremony and Principal of Vigarunnisa Noon College Rokeya Akhter Begum gave a welcome address.

Debate Warriors President Mahbub Amin Nahyan also spoke at the programme.

Later, a prize giving ceremony was held where the winners of daylong debate competitions received prizes, says a press release.

DHAKA

TODAY

Award giving ceremony

Transparency International Bangladesh will give away Investigative Journalism Award. Venue: Brac Centre Inn. Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

The British Council will organise a panel discussion for the London Challenge visitors with the Institute of Education and Research (IER), Dhaka University. Venue: IER. Time: 3:00pm.

Lecture

Prof Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, will deliver a lecture on 'OIC's vision: Meeting the challenges of the 21st century'. Venue: Nabab Nowab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, Dhaka University. Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion

Bangabandhu and Four National Leaders Parishad Bangladesh will hold a discussion to mark the 34th Jail Killing Day. Venue: Shaheed Shafiqur Rahman auditorium, Supreme Court. Time: 4:01pm.

Launching ceremony

Consumers' Association of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development (BIID) organises the launching ceremony of 'e-complain' to enable citizens to protect their rights. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar

International Rice Research Institute organises a seminar on 'Agricultural development approach in coastal areas of Bangladesh'. Venue: Seminar room, Level 4, LGED Bhaban. Time: 9:30am.



State Minister for Labour and Employment Munnun Sufian addresses the 14th National Council of SPGR at the Institute of Diploma Engineers in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 5)



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country having chances of light rain at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

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

The sun sets in the capital at 6:17pm today and rises at 7:08am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and Bogra and lowest 18.6 degrees Celsius at Dinajpur.

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	33.0	23.3	74	57
Chittagong	33.2	24.4	70	75
Rajshahi	32.7	20.7	81	74
Khulna	32.8	23.0	72	79
Barisal	32.5	22.9	76	92
Sylhet	32.6	22.2	60	73
Cox's Bazar	34.2	24.5	63	72