

New law on cards to boost professionalism in admin

Says HT Imam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to formulate a law to increase professionalism in the administration so that officials perform their duties as servants of the republic, a PM's adviser said yesterday.

"There has been a significant progress in framing the civil service act," Adviser to the Prime Minister HT Imam told reporters after a roundtable discussion at a city hotel.

Civil Service Change Management Programme (CSCMP) under the establishment ministry and UNDP Bangladesh jointly organised the roundtable titled 'Citizen's charter for improved service delivery'.

Many issues including their recruitments, promotions, higher studies, trainings and career planning will be described in the act, he said adding all the officials and employees of the republic will perform their duties towards the people remaining above political or partisan attitude.

Asked whether the law would help remove politicisation in the adminis-

tration, Imam said these sorts of things will not remain anymore after the enactment of the law.

"It's true that politics influence everyone since we all are part of the society. But we would want that the political attitude does not affect any government activities," he added.

The adviser said an ideal civil service is that where the public is reflected in the acts of the officials.

Establishment Secretary Iqbal Mahmood said a committee formed by the government is working to formulate the legislation.

A draft of the act has been prepared and would be placed at the cabinet after necessary consultations, he said. "We will also put the law on website."

Cabinet Secretary M Abdul Aziz said they have prepared the draft after consulting with many people and professional groups. "We're in the process of making an act."

Regarding the citizen's charter, HT Imam stressed the need for more discussions with lawmakers and representatives of the local government bodies to draft a citizen's charter since

they are the people by whom the public opinions are expressed.

The citizen's charter is related to the vision of making Digital Bangladesh, which means taking people's services at their doorsteps through cheapest and quickest ways, he said.

The speakers said the citizen's charter is a bridge between public service providers and recipients and it should be prepared on the basis of local needs.

It is an extremely powerful tool to empower people, they said and suggested building capacity of the public service providers.

Apart from ensuring services to the people by the officials, the people also need to know their rights as the citizen's charter is a two way service, they said.

Peter van de Pol, project manager of CSCMP, presented the citizen's charter manual at the discussion while Stefan Priesner, resident representative of UNDP Bangladesh and Dr Muhammad Sadique, national project director of CSCMP, also spoke.

President's motorcade stuck in gridlock

UNB, Dhaka

The president's motorcade got stuck in a traffic jam near Farmgate yesterday afternoon while President Zillur Rahman was returning to Bangabhaban from the Air Force Headquarters.

Members of the President's Guard Regiment, SSF and Police accompanying the president jumped out of their cars and tried to clear the road while some cordoned the president's car in front of Tejgaon Police Station about 1:00pm.

Inquisitive pedestrians watched this unusual scene. After around five minutes being stuck up, the road was somehow cleared and the motorcade started for Bangabhaban at 1:05pm.

The president went to the Air Force Headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment as part of his routine schedule.

When contacted DC Traffic (West) Selim Mohammad Jahangir told UNB that there was huge traffic at that time on the road and that's why it took a little time to clear the road.

However another source said lack of coordination is responsible for it.

AL MAN MURDER ntv director Nuruddin gets bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court on Tuesday granted bail to one of ntv directors Nuruddin Ahmed, an accused of killing an Awami League (AL) activist in February 1990.

Judge (in charge) Hrishikesh Saha of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-2 passed the order after Nuruddin along with his lawyers surrendered before the court and sought bail in the case.

Nuruddin, brother of former BNP lawmaker Mosaddak Ali Fahu, has been on the run since his bail in this case was cancelled on July 30 last year.

AL activist Harun-ur-Rashid of Mymensingh district was shot dead by a group of freedom party leaders and activists led by Major (Retd) Bazul Huda nearby Purabi Cinema Hall on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway about 8:30pm on February 11 of 1990.

Following the incident, victim's brother-in-law Mosharrif Hossain Bablu filed a murder case accusing Bazul Huda, Nuruddin and 28 others of committing the offence.

In the bail petition, lawyers mentioned that their client was earlier arrested on February 12, 1990 and later he was released on bail. But the tribunal had issued an arrest for his non-appearance before the court. So, they prayed for granting bail to their client on previous condition.

The prosecution opposed it saying that the accused had been absconding for long time.

All the accused except Major (Retd) Joydul Abedin and Freedom Party coordinator Ashrafal Haque have been absconding since the case was filed.

Meantime, the court discharged Bazul Huda from the case as he was executed in the Bangabandhu Murder Case.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Passengers get stuck in a long tailback on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the city yesterday, as sweltering heat adds to their suffering. The photo was taken at about 3:00pm.

CCC ELECTIONS

Mohiuddin, Latif declare candidacy

Former CCCI president Saifuzzaman Chowdhury collects nomination form

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury and Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) President MA Latif MP have declared their candidacy for the post of mayor in the CCC elections scheduled to be held on June 17.

On the other hand, former CCCI President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, son of Awami League lawmaker Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, collected nomination form from the district election commission office yesterday to contest the mayoral election.

Mohiuddin, also the president of Chittagong city AL, declared his candidacy at a meeting with reporters at his Chashma Hill residence in the city on Tuesday evening soon after the Election Commission announced the polls schedule.

Mohiuddin said he has been maintaining regular contacts with the party high commands and proceeding accordingly. The party is yet to nominate him formally, he added.

However, he said, he would abide by the decision of the party in this regard even if he fails to get party ticket.

CCCI President and AL

lawmaker MA Latif declared his candidacy in the election on Tuesday.

In a message from Taiwan where he is leading a CCCI delegation, Latif said he would contest the polls, if the party chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina allows him to do so.

To build a digital Bangladesh, a dynamic leadership is needed in the CCC, Latif said.

On the other hand, a major faction of Chittagong city AL led by its vice president Nurul Islam Bsc, also a local lawmaker, held a meeting at the city residence of another vice president Mahtabuddin Chowdhury on Tuesday evening.

According to the decision of the meeting, the faction recommended Mahtabuddin Chowdhury, organising secretary Rezaul Karim and AZM Nasir Uddin for party nomination.

Besides, Abdus Salam, chairman of Chittagong Develop Authority (CDA), is also lobbying to get AL nomination.

Meanwhile, Shachetan Nagorik Parishad declared Mohammad Solaiman Alam Sheth, Chittagong city Jatiya Party convener, as the candidate for the mayoral post on Tuesday.

RAPE OF CHILD

HC asks Thakurgaon admin to place documents within a week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the local administration of Thakurgaon to place all relevant documents and papers regarding the incident of violating a five-year old child to this court within a week.

The order came following a writ petition stating that Didarul Islam alias Sonet of Madarganj village of Thakurgaon raped a five-year old child on April 3, but the police are not arresting Sonet although a case was filed in this connection on April 8 along with relevant medical report.

The court also yesterday directed the civil surgeon of Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital to submit the medical report of the victim to this court within seven days.

It ordered the superintendent of police of the district to submit all the papers of the case within the same period.

The HC bench of Justice Md Imman Ali and Justice Obaidul Hasan also asked the Chief Judicial Magistrate of the district to submit the statement of the victim to the court within this period.

The court also issued a rule upon the local police to explain why their inaction in arresting the accused in this case should not be declared illegal.

Monjura Begum, maternal aunt of the victim, filed the writ petition with HC, seeking directions on the administration to place the relevant reports and to protect the victim and her family members.

Advocate Fahima Nasrin appeared for the petitioner.



PHOTO: STAR

Gonotrik Bam Morcha stages a demonstration in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding payment of compensation and rehabilitation of the farmers who lost their crops to floods in Haor areas.

Nato to deal with environmental security issue in future

Says ex-Nato Parliamentary Assembly official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) will deal with the climate and environmental security issue as part of its role in the future, former Nato Parliamentary Assembly official Anders Christian Sjaastad said at a roundtable in the city yesterday.

About its security, military and peacekeeping missions in different countries, he said, "It is important for Nato to decide itself where to get involved or not."

He also mentioned that in the future Nato would interfere anywhere in the world to ensure security of its member countries.

Sjaastad, also former defence minister of Norway, made the comment while discussing various missions of Nato, including the Nato-led security mission in Afghanistan.

He mentioned that the civilian aspect of the mission in Afghanistan was underestimated.

"Nato is still a complicated organisation. Still there is a lot

to be done to streamline it," he said at the roundtable on 'Role of Nato in the new security order' organised by Bangladesh Institute of peace and security studies (BIPSS) at Dhaka Sheraton hotel.

Speaking at the programme, Maj Gen (retd) Syed Fatemy Ahmed Romy said, "Political problems cannot be solved using the military and Nato. Nato is ensuring security of Europe and America but threatening us at the same time."

Other speakers also criticised the role Nato is playing

in Pakistan and the Middle East in the name of ensuring security of Europe and America.

There is an undisclosed agenda behind different Nato missions engaged in different countries in the name of security, they said.

Sjaastad refuted the allegation, saying that Nato has no other beneficial agenda rather than combating terrorism and ensuring security.

President of BIPSS Maj Gen (retd) ANM Muniruzzaman moderated the roundtable.

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