

Parliamentary hearing before appointment

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special committee told The Daily Star.

People with dubious records will not dare to express their willingness to be appointed to the posts as their previous records might be made public in the hearings, they said.

At present the executive branch of the state maintains secrecy during the process of appointing constitutional officers, and the people come to know about the appointments only after the process is completed.

The special committee on March 29 at a meeting held in Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban had preliminary discussions on the idea, it will hold further discussions on the matter.

"Majority members of the committee are in favour of introducing the system. So, we will try to take the idea

forward," a member of the special committee said, wishing anonymity.

The move comes in response to controversies over appointments of the Supreme Court judges, chief election commissioner (CEC), election commissioners, chairmen and members of the Public Service Commission (PSC), and the attorney general -- as the executive branch of the state always controls the appointments.

"If the system is introduced, it will contribute to bringing an end to the controversies regarding the appointments," said Rashed Khan Menon, a member of the special committee.

Contacted by The Daily Star, two eminent jurists Ghulam Rabbani and Shahdeen Malik echoed Menon.

"I definitely support the

idea. If the public hearing system is introduced and the hearing is broadcast live like the congressional hearings in the US, then it will bring good result for the nation," Rabbani, also a former judge of the Appellate Division of Supreme Court, said.

He also stressed the need for appointing an ombudsman in line with a constitutional provision.

"This is the best method of appointing the most deserving candidates through an open and transparent process. If this procedure is established, finally merits and qualifications will prevail over party loyalty," Malik said lauding the idea.

Rashed Khan Menon, also the chief of Workers Party, who placed the proposal at the parliamentary special committee, said they will hold detail discussions

regarding whether the idea is realistic in Bangladesh's present context.

He however said such system exists in many countries, and it has been proven effective in ensuring quality appointments to constitutional posts.

Talking to The Daily Star on condition of anonymity, another member of the special committee expressed scepticism about implementation of the idea, as the committee has yet to know about the prime minister's thoughts on it.

"I don't know whether the government will agree to lose its sweeping authority over the appointments. If the parliamentary confirmation system is introduced, the government must appoint qualified people to the posts, and it will not be able to favour people loyal to them" he

said.

Another member of the special committee opposed the idea, saying, the system of parliamentary confirmation will politicise the appointments more.

The member is in favour of making a committee headed by the chief justice and representatives of the Supreme Court Bar Association, and Bangladesh Bar Council to pick the candidates for appointments as judges of the Supreme Court.

The immediate past caretaker government led by Fakhruddin Ahmed moved to reform the procedure for appointing Supreme Court judges.

It promulgated an ordinance in March 2008 and formed a Supreme Judicial Commission to ensure transparency and impartiality in appointments of SC

judges.

The ordinance prescribed setting up of a nine-member commission headed by the chief justice, which would recommend names for appointments as additional judges of the High Court. The HC in April 2008 stayed the functions of the Supreme Judicial Commission for three months.

And eventually, the caretaker government's move did not see the light of day.

Ban on use

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twenty-four hours into Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid's announcement in this regard.

Allegations are rife that some teachers of different educational institutions use mobile phones in classrooms and examination halls, disrupting teaching activities and interrupting students' attention during examinations, the circular reads.

"Therefore, mobile phones cannot be used during class and examination hours," it adds.

A number of teachers have welcomed the decision and termed it helpful for the students.

Husne Ara Begum, principal of Vigarunnisa Noon School and College, said receiving phone calls in the class hampers lessons by diverting the learners' attention.

Use of cell phones must be banned in the examination halls, as it raises questions about cheating, she told The Daily Star.

Use of mobile phone has increased significantly in the country in recent times. According to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission website, the number of active subscribers of mobile phone reached around 7.29 crore in March this year.

Limon hopes

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Chhaturia in Rajapur of Jhalakathi on March 23.

As infection threatened to spread further up his body, doctors at the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation in the capital amputated his leg on March 27.

"At first, I thought I'd have to live the rest of my life at the mercy of others," he told this correspondent yesterday, lying on a bed at Nitor.

"Then I heard doctors can outfit amputees with artificial limbs. It gave me a glimmer of hope. I started dreaming that I'll get back on my feet again."

Limon, a first-year student of Kathalia PGS vocational college, wants to study law and help the victims of social ills and injustice.

Before that, he needs a

part-time job to complete his higher secondary education.

Nitor Director Prof Abdul Awal Rizvi told The Daily Star that Limon's condition is improving.

He also said they hope to get him an artificial leg within three months if they can pool the money needed.

Limon's father Tofazzal Hossain said people are coming forward with financial help following reports in the media. So far, he has received Tk 30,000 for his son's treatment.

He, however, needs yet more help to buy Limon a good foreign-made prosthetic leg, which usually costs around Tk 2 lakh.

Limon's mother Henu Ara Begum has filed a case with a Jhalakathi court, accusing six Rab men of attempt to kill her son.

30-40 lawyers accused

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Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court of Dhaka, filed a case with Kotwali Police Station on Sunday night against the lawyers accusing them of obstructing police from their duties and assaulting them.

Nazma Begum, a bench officer (peshkar), filed another case with the same police station against the same accused under the Speedy Trial (Law and Order Disruption) Act.

On Sunday, a group of lawyers snatched a fellow lawyer, an accused in a fraud case, from the dock of a Dhaka court as it rejected his bail petition and ordered sending him to jail.

The lawyers also vandalised furniture and windowpanes of the courtroom after

Metropolitan Magistrate MA Salam rejected the bail petition of advocate Nurul Islam, and passed the order.

Nurul Islam later surrendered to the same court at 5:30pm the same day.

Asked about the cases, Dhaka Bar General Secretary Mohammad Iqbal Hossain said they had held a meeting with the CMM AKM Enamul Haque to settle the matter amicably and requested him not to file any cases.

But the CMM ignored their request and demeaned them, he added.

"We have called an emergency meeting at Dhaka Bar Association today where all former presidents and general secretaries would be present and discuss the next course of action" said Iqbal.

306 more Bangladeshis

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The consular team at Ras Jdir has been attending calls from Bangladeshi families all over Libya, seeking advice about their return to Bangladesh, said the ministry press release.

They are asked to take a safe route to Ras Jdir where they will be repatriated by coordinated flights of Biman.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Al Salloum has also been asked to facilitate repatriation of Bangladeshis crossing over into the Egyptian territory, said the press release.

As of now, 34,867 Bangladeshis who were employed in Libya have been repatriated to Bangladesh, of which, 3,832 were repatriated by their employers while the rest returned on their own.

A total of 128 flights have operated, among which 112 flights were chartered by International Organisation for Migration (IOM), on a cost-sharing basis with Bangladesh government.

Of the 27,070 repatriated under the coordination of

IOM, 3,965 availed the 16 flights of Bangladesh Biman.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Embassy in Athens will arrange the repatriation of eight Bangladeshis who arrived at the port of Corfu, in Crete Island of Greece after verifying their identities.

Besides, one Bangladeshi, among the 49 who jumped off a ship during evacuation on March 6, still remains missing at Hania, Crete Island.


JS special

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Yesterday's was the committee's first meeting with the premier since its formation on July 21 last year.

Starting around 7:15pm, the meeting ended at about 11:30pm.

The 15-member special committee headed by Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury consists of only Awami League-led ruling alliance lawmakers, as main opposition BNP did not delegate any member.

**Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL)**
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Development Division

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ, এর অপচয়
রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন

জালালি নিরাপত্তা
সর্বোচ্চ অধিকার

শিল্পে প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস,
গৃহস্থালীতে বিকল্প জ্বালানি

Invitation for Tenders

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division.
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla).
3.	Procuring entity name	Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL).
KEY INFORMATION		
4.	Procurement method	Open tendering method.
FUNDING INFORMATION		
5.	Budget and source of funds	GOB.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
6.	Date and time for selling tender document Last date & time for selling tender document	18/04/2011 to 08/05/2011 08/05/2011 up to 3.00pm
7.	Name & address of the office(s) -Selling tender document -Receiving tender document -Opening tender document	Address Pay & Bill Department, Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL), Red Crescent Borak Tower (Level-4), 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000. 1. Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL), Committee Room, Red Crescent Borak Tower (Level-6), 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000. 2. Bakhrabad Gas Systems Limited (BGSL), Dhaka Liaison Office, House No. 222, Lane No. 15, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206. 3. Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (BGFCL), Dhaka Liaison Office, Petrobangla, Petrocenter (14 th Floor), 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215. Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL), Committee Room, Red Crescent Borak Tower (Level-3), 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
8.	Eligibility of tenderer	Any individual(s)/firm(s) who fulfill the qualification(s) criteria stipulated in the Tender Data Sheet (TDS) and other conditions of the tender document, are eligible to participate in the tender.
9. Tender's name and other related information:		
Sl. No. & invitation Ref. No.	Description of works	Price of tender document (Tk) Amount of tender security (Tk) Time for completion (days) Tender submission and opening date & time
9.1) GTCL/Dev/Const/CSP/23/15/2010-2011	Installation of Submersible Deep Tubewell and other ancillary works under Compressor Station Project at Ashuganj, B'baria.	750.00 (seven hundred fifty) 25,000.00 (twenty-five thousand) 90 (ninety) Date: 09/05/2011 Submission time: Up to 12.00 noon Opening time: 2.00pm on the same date
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
10.	Name of official inviting tender	Construction Department, Development Division.
11.	Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (Construction).
12.	Address of official inviting tender	Red Crescent Borak Tower (Level-6), 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000.
13.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No: 9355813 Fax No: 9356037
14.	The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	
15.	All activities in connection with the said procurement of works will be guided as per "The Public Procurement Rules-2008".	

GTGP-59/10-11GD-1721

Rajapaksa flies

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programme schedule of the visit and are now fine-tuning the agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to be signed, said foreign ministry officials.

They said drafts of agreements and MoUs have been exchanged in light of the recently held foreign secretary-level consultation in Dhaka in January.

Signing of the deals, mostly related to promotion of trade and investment, will usher in a new chapter in the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, said the ministry sources.

The deals will be made to promote export and avoid double taxation. MoUs on cultural, educational and scientific exchange programme and agricultural research will be signed.

Sri Lanka sought access to higher education in

Bangladesh. Some 500 students of that country are now studying in private medical colleges here. Bangladesh agreed to make room for more students in different educational institutions.

Both the sides agreed to take a fresh look at the existing Shipping Services Agreement signed in 1979 to make it more suitable for present day needs, officials said.

Bangladesh offered to export pharmaceuticals, jute and jute-made goods, ceramics and tea packaging to Sri Lanka, and this matter will prominently figure during the visit.

In response to Bangladesh's request, the Sri Lankan government had agreed to provide training to Bangladeshi nurses in that country, but the health ministry failed to formulate a draft MoU in this regard in last three months.

Land acquisition draft

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Star, adding that the law will be ineffective once the land acquisition finishes.

The Tk 8,703 crore expressway from Shahjalal International Airport to Kutubkhali on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway will be built under the public-private partnership.

The first nine kilometres of the expressway -- from airport to Tejaon -- will require 96 acres of land, of which 18 acres belong to private owners. Of the remaining 78 acres, 10 acres belong to the Cantonment Board, four to the Roads and Highways

Department and the rest to Bangladesh Railway.

The project, expected to be finished by December 2013, is aimed to ease the capital's traffic movement by linking the northern part of the city to the central and southern parts, and touching some important commercial and business centres.

In yesterday's meeting, the PM said the government would take all necessary steps so that not a single area of the project suffers. She termed the expressway public interest project and asked all concerned to complete the

work timely.

The cabinet meeting also approved the proposal of ratifying the UN convention on protecting the rights of migrant workers and their families.

Briefing the media after the meeting, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said every year Bangladesh sends around 4 lakh workers abroad and at present about 70 lakh Bangladeshis are working overseas immensely contributing to the country's economy.

The cabinet ratified the convention considering their contribution, he added.

Stock protectors turned

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between January 2009 and December 2010, found the probe.

During the time, shares worth about Tk 19 crore were sold from these accounts with Al-Arafah Islami Bank, LankaBangla Securities, BLI Securities and NBL Securities.

Operating four BO accounts in wife's name is a direct violation of the SEC circular. Besides, big transactions were made through these accounts. The intelligence can investigate the matter, recommended the probe report.

Kafiluddin Ahmed Chowdhury, the then deputy general manager of state-run Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) during the stockmarket debacle and currently general manager of House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC), maintained two BO accounts -- a joint account with his wife Farzana Akter and a dummy account in the name of his brother-in-law Masum Billah -- in IFIC Bank.

From these two accounts Kafiluddin withdrew more

than Tk 3 crore in just two months and deposited the same amount as FDR in NCC Bank, Exim Bank and Jamuna Bank.

The probe committee summoned Kafiluddin for a hearing on March 24.

"Kafiluddin said he made profits by selling mutual funds that he received through private placement at face value. He did not think it illegal. He said almost every official of the ICB were involved in share business," the probe report said.

"Asked whether share business is permitted in the service rule, he replied he had not read the rules. He believed it was illegal doing business in the names of wife and brother-in-law. He did not answer why his wife and brother-in-law's money was deposited in his name," the probe report said.

The report also recommended investigating how the DGM of ICB deposited such huge amount of money and that the finance ministry can file a departmental case against him, as he is now the general manager of HBFC. The matter can also

be sent to Anti-Corruption Commission, it added.

The probe committee became suspicious when they found that Shamima Sharif, wife of a Dhaka Stock Exchange member, withdrew Tk 1.52 crore from Commercial Bank of Ceylon through LankaBangla Finance. She deposited the money in SAR Securities and LankaBangla Securities.

In light of this case, the probe committee recommended, "The SEC can investigate the matter. This issue can also be sent to the Bangladesh Bank to see whether the withdrawal can be considered as money laundering."

RY Shamsar, chief executive officer of AB Investment Ltd, a subsidiary of AB Bank, got placement shares of eight companies and mutual funds worth Tk 11.99 crore in his own name. "It appeared that he made profits through selling the placement shares in higher prices," the report said.

The report suggested removing Shamsar from his post for doing share business being the chief of AB Investment.

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